

November 9, 2020

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

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Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Marion held in the Council Chambers at 5:30 P.M. The City Clerk was instructed to call the roll and the response was as follows:

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marion Carnegie Library Board Chair George Trammel.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Marion Senior Citizens Center Director Jill Graskewicz addressed the Council regarding recent happenings at the Senior Citizens Center. Jill reported in October 4,100 lunches were served. This was an increase of 1,100 from September. The Center partnered with Heartland Regional Medical Center to provide drive-thru flu shot clinics for seniors. Jill reported the staff surveyed the seniors to find out what they wanted from the Center. The number one request from the seniors was information. Jill and her staff are trying to provide information to the seniors on the lunch bags. She said they are also working on putting together a free drive-thru tax clinic. They are also working with IT Director Terance Henry to have loadable cards (like gift cards) the seniors may use to pay for their meals.

Mayor Absher reported on October 17, 2020 the City held the fifth annual Electronics Recycling Event at the Marion Training Center. 34,362 pounds of electronics were collected. IT Director Terance Henry wanted to thank Marion High School Coaches Darrell Wimberly, Kerry Martin and Gus Gillespie and the football and basketball teams for assisting with the event. He also thanked Terance for his involvement.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

NEW BUSINESS

MARION CARNEGIE LIBRARY

George Trammel, Chairman of the Marion Carnegie Library Board, addressed the Council. He explained the Board received five applications for the Library Director position. Four of those candidates were qualified and were interviewed by the Board. He stated the Board recommends Loretta Broomfield for the position of Library Director. Mrs. Broomfield is from Marion and he is currently the Librarian in Murphysboro. He introduced Mrs. Broomfield to the Council.

Mrs. Broomfield explained she began her career as a Marion High School student working as a part-time shelver at the Marion Carnegie Library. She stated it has been her career aspiration since she was a teenager to be the Library Director at Marion Carnegie Library. This is a dream come true for her. She has been working in libraries for over 30 years. She has been the Librarian in Murphysboro for the last six and a half years. Prior to that, she worked for the

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Shawnee Library System which later became the Illinois Heartland Library System for 24 years. She said she is excited to get started and is very happy for the opportunity.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Library Board to hire Loretta Broomfield as Library Director, an exempt position, at a salary of \$60,000 plus benefits. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Treasurer Steve Hale explained every year the actuary's Police and Fire pension contribution recommendations are higher than the State's recommendations. He stated the State's recommendation is to be at 90 percent funding by 2040, but the City's actuary's recommendation is working toward 100 percent funding. Steve recommends the City contribute \$1,117,351 to the Police Pension Fund and \$720,967 to the Fire Pension Fund. Steve stated at April 30, 2020 the Fire Pension is 71.77 percent funded and the Police Pension is 64.8 percent funded. Mayor Absher stated this item will be on the next agenda for vote.

Mayor Absher announced the property tax levy will again be \$100.00, identical to last year's levy.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 3673 setting the FY 2020-2021 Property Tax Levy at \$100.00. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain explained the engineering agreement with Clarida & Ziegler Engineering for Phase 1 of the South Market sewer main extension has been in the works at different times for several years. Different developers have approached the City over the years about extending the sewer down South Market. The lack of sanitary sewer south of town has prohibited any development in that area. There is a possibility to gain some new customers from a couple developments wanting to located in that area. The engineering agreement on tonight's agenda will allow the City to move forward with finalizing the plans to run sanitary sewer from the sewer plant south to a lift station and then to Sycamore Lane and to move forward with the bid process. Commissioner Webb asked if the sewer plant has capacity to handle this. Brent explained the City has two treatment plants and this line would run from the older plant. It has the capacity to handle the additional customers.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve an engineering agreement with Clarida & Ziegler Engineering Co. for Phase 1 of the South Market sewer main extension project. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Brent explained the engineering agreement for replacing the existing Industrial Park Lift Station is for a project he and Glenn Clarida have been working on for a year. They have secured grant funds from Delta Regional Authority for this project. The Industrial Park lift station serves many other lift stations, Heartland Regional Medical Center and Aisin Manufacturing and is in dire need of replacement. The total cost of the project is \$360,000. The Delta Regional Authority grant will fund \$257,000 of that cost. The City's portion of the cost will be \$103,000. The engineering agreement will allow the City to move forward with the design engineering for this project.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve an engineering agreement with Clarida & Ziegler Engineering Co. for replacing the existing Industrial Park Lift Station, 900 lineal feet of six-inch sewer forcemain and all necessary appurtenances. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

Building & Code Services Director Tim Stotlar addressed the Council regarding Ordinance 3678. He explained this ordinance is updating the electrical contractor licensing requirements. An exam will be given the second Tuesday of every month. There will be a two-hour time limit for the exam. Contractors passing the exam will be required to provide a \$3,000.00 surety bond and pay a \$25.00 annual license fee. Existing electrical contractors will be grandfathered in and will not be required to take the exam. Only those contractors performing commercial electrical work in the City will be required to take the exam.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3678 amending the Electrical Contractor section of the Marion City Code. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mayor Absher explained Ordinance 3672 must be passed to add property to the Williamson County Enterprise Zone.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3672 an ordinance adding territory to the Williamson County Enterprise Zone. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

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Mayor Absher announced the City advertised for and solicited bids for the sale of Marion City Lake south of town. This property is 440 acres owned by the City. One bid for \$1,500,000 was received from Andrew Freebourn, President and CEO of Freebourn Enterprises. The bid included a letter of commitment from Bamterra Bank listing the terms of financing for a portion of the cost of the property. Mayor Absher explained there are some contingencies that have arisen since the advertisement of the property for sale. There is an issue with access to a small cemetery north of the lake, an issue with adjacent property and an access road for the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Region located on the property. These contingencies will need to be discussed with Mr. Freebourn before the property sale is completed.

Commissioner Patton asked about routine maintenance for the lake property. Economic Development and Municipal Planning Director Glenn Clarida explained the City's insurance carrier requires the City to have the dam inspected periodically. He noted the City has some liability down stream if the dam were to ever breach. There is a railroad bridge that could potentially be taken out.

Commissioner Webb asked if the lake would ever be needed as a water source for the City. Glenn Clarida stated it would not because the City no longer has a processing plant to process the water for use. Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain stated he thinks the lake presents a small amount of liability for the City because the Street Department must mow and maintain the dam.

Mayor Absher made a motion to accept the bid of \$1,500,000 from Andrew Freebourn, President and CEO of Freebourn Enterprises and to approve Ordinance 3676 directing the sale of real property known as the Marion City Lake. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Mayor Absher explained the invoice from Earth Services is for the demolition of the MDR, American Legion and Pali Kai buildings. He said the MDR building was not salvageable because it was not structurally sound, and the City is lucky it had not already fallen.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve payment of Earth Services invoice 500010923 dated 11/3/2020 for \$148,490 for the demolition and abatement of the MDR building, the American Legion building and the Pali Kai restaurant building. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 3679 a redevelopment agreement with Brynnlayne Properties, LLC. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher explained Ordinance 3671 is creating a new class of liquor license. This type of license will be used by Kokopelli and possibly Martini Joe's to cater events.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3671 amending the Liquor code to create a Class VIII liquor license for catering business and limiting the number available to five.

Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3677 authorizing a portion of municipal sales tax funds to be dedicated to economic relief. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Webb stated the Cemetery Department recently had their state records inspection. They passed with flying colors. He gave kudos to them for all the hard work they do keeping the cemeteries looking nice. The Street Department continues working on sidewalks and started the Fall Clean Up this week. It will continue for the next two weeks. They have also been working on the Christmas decorations on the Tower Square.

Mayor Absher complimented the Street Department on cleaning up town and doing a great job. He stated he appreciates their hard work. Commissioner Patton stated that Doug Phillips and his staff make it happen.

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Barwick read the Police and Fire Department Reports for October. He also had a bit of trivia to report. He stated the Fire Department used 620 gallons of water to put out the fires in October.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department Report since the last meeting. He reminded residents to disconnect water hoses before the temperatures drop.

Mayor Absher stated that several departments under his commissionership have been extraordinarily challenged to stay relevant and needed this year. Those departments include Boyton Street, Civic Center, the Hub, the Pavilion and the Senior Citizens Center. They have all done a tremendous job meeting those challenges. He complimented Pavilion Executive Director Jared Garrison for doing a great job hosting the Food Truck Friday events with food vendors and movies. He said he challenged Marion Cultural and Civic Center Executive Director Josh Benson to think outside the box to keep the Civic Center relevant during the Pandemic. He

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reported Josh has put in far more hours than he has been paid for working on the various murals being painted downtown. He encouraged residents to thank Josh for his passion and execution of these projects. He thinks he's a treasure to the City and deserves kudos for all that he has done.

Mayor Absher announced there would be executive session this evening to discuss a property matter.

6:28 P.M.

Mayor Absher made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Sale or Lease of Public Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) ion 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11). Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

7:40 P.M.

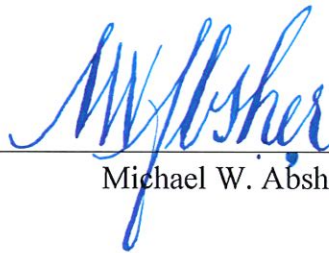
Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

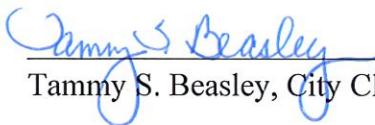
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk