

October 26, 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 BARWICK, WEBB AND
STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER.

PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: COMMISSIONER PATTON

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marion Police Department Dispatch Team Lead Ashley Olson.

VFW Post 1301 Commander Bill Hatfield addressed the Council to present a certificate of appreciation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to Police Chief David Fitts and the Marion Police Department. Mr. Hatfield said the members of the VFW wanted to thank Chief Fitts and his department for all they do for the community. Police Chief Fitts accepted the certificate on behalf of the men and women of the Marion Police Department.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Community Programs Director Allison Hasler addressed the Council regarding the Asphalt Art Program she is proposing. This is a community driven program that will start in the Tower Square area and could potentially move to other areas of town. This is a program that uses art as traffic calming measures. She anticipates a small committee will be formed to approve the artwork. Allison also added she is working on a grant proposal for funds to Destination Alleyways. This proposal will request funding for lighting, green space, hanging vegetation and asphalt art for the four alleys around the Tower Square. The grant application is due by the end of the week.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the Asphalt Art Program. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve Ordinance 3666 authorizing the City of Marion, Williamson County, Illinois, to enter into a loan agreement with First Southern Bank to purchase police cars and equipment. 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.

Police Chief David Fitts told the Council the Police Department has openings for two part-time dispatchers. Chief Fitts, Assistant Chief Morrow and the Dispatch Team Leads interviewed five applicants. Chief Fitts recommended the Council approve hiring Tyson Smith and Aidan Segers to begin work on October 27, 2020.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Chief to hire Tyson Smith and Aidan Segers each to the position of part-time dispatcher at the training pay rate of \$21.47 per hour, increasing to \$22.66 per hour upon completion of training. Commissioner Stoecklin 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 the Southern Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization (SIMPO) provides grant opportunities for Southern Illinois communities. The City is applying for a grant to fund improvements to Tower Square. Economic Development and Municipal Planning Director Glenn Clarida explained the grant is 80 percent Federally Funded. The City will be responsible for matching those funds 20 percent. Glenn explained the City must adopt the Resolution of Commitment before we can apply for the grant. He believes the City has a good chance of receiving the funds.

Mayor Absher made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-56, a resolution of commitment of local funds for local roadway improvements, including construction of new pavement, sidewalks, crosswalks, curb and gutter, ADA ramps, pavement striping and miscellaneous improvements. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher announced Ordinance 3667 is to refinance bonds to save the City money.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3667, an ordinance providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds of the City of Marion, Williamson County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount of \$902,000 for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding general obligation bonds of the City and paying costs related to the issuance of such bonds and authorizing the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds. 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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Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report for October. He stated he had two items of trivia to report. He asked if anyone knew the height of the water tower by the water plant. He reported it is 167 feet tall. He explained the height of the tower determines the water pressure. He also reported in 1919, the City appointed the City Scavenger. This person controlled the waste and garbage collection in the City. The City Scavenger was responsible for hauling away dry garbage, rubbish and night soil. The night soil was the waste cleaned out of the outhouses each night. He also read a letter from Water Field Supervisor Cliff Hogue, Jr. thanking Terance Henry and the IT Department staff for their work installing and maintaining the meter reading system.

Commissioner Barwick read the Fire Department Report for the month of September. He also read a letter sent from Police Officer Samuel Ward to Mayor Absher. Officer Ward's letter thanked everyone who responded to his recent traffic crash while on duty October 16, 2020. He thanked Officer Chris Fozzard and his other fellow Officers and Dispatchers, Assistant Fire Chief Bill Heyde and responding firefighters, United EMS ambulance crew and Air Evac Lifeteam helicopter crew. Mayor Absher commended all involved. He commented he received two text messages that day asking if the officer involved in the accident was okay and stating prayer chains had been initiated for him at their respective churches.

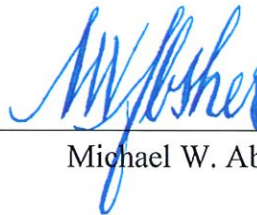
Commissioner Webb also reminded everyone the Fall Clean-Up starts on November 9th and the schedule is posted on the website and City app.

Mayor Absher announced there was no reason to go into Executive Session this evening.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

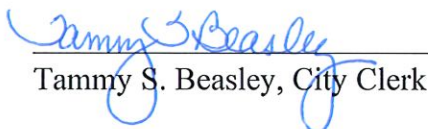
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk