

September 28, 2020

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

September 28, 2020

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.

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER PATTON.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Absher.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Deedrick with the Egyptian Board of Realtors thanked the Council for engaging with the Board on Ordinance 3646 adopting the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code.

Leon Allen, a Marion homeowner, addressed the Council regarding a violation he received from Animal Control Officers for having five chickens in a coop in his backyard. Mr. Allen explained his chickens are pets that he has raised from babies and relocating them would be a hardship on his family. He also stated his chickens are in self-contained coops and do not run free. He asked the Council to consider revising the current ordinance to allow a small number of chickens to be kept as pets.

Mayor Absher commented the City has limited resources when it comes to Animal Control. Ninety percent of the officers' time is spent chasing skunks. The Animal Control Officers were at Mr. Allen's because of a call regarding skunks and saw his chickens. That is how the citation came about. They were not proactively driving around looking for chickens in town because they do not have time for that. After some discussion with Mr. Allen, Mayor Absher polled the Commissioners for their thoughts on the ordinance.

Commissioner Barwick is not in favor of changing the current ordinance regarding chickens. He thinks it is a slippery slope and the City needs to be consistent in enforcing the ordinance. He believes it should be enforced the same for everyone. He doesn't see any other interpretation of the ordinance than as it is written and thinks it should not be revised.

Commissioner Stoecklin stated he is not "anti-chicken." He thinks the problem is with the feed. He believes that is what is attracting other animals. He thinks the ordinance can be looked at for potential changes, but if changed, a determination must be made as to how many chickens could be allowed and what type of enclosure, they must be kept in. He believes the City must uphold the ordinance as it stands now.

Commissioner Webb agreed with Commissioner Barwick. He is fine with upholding the ordinance as it is written and believes it must apply to everyone. He thinks it should be kept as is.

September 28, 2020

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 3646 adopting the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Superintendent to hire Scott Crompton to the position of full-time laborer at \$16.99 per hour plus benefits per the contract; filling the position vacated by Collin Basham. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain explained to the Council he and Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips want to purchase a “gator” utility vehicle. Brent said he and Doug would like to split the cost of the vehicle between the Sewer and Street Departments. He explained the Street Department will use it during the day and the Sewer Department will use it during the evenings. Commissioner Webb explained the Street Department will be able to take the vehicle in areas that can’t easily be reached with a truck and using it will be less obtrusive to property owners. Brent explained the Sewer Department will use it to spray insecticides in hard to reach places such as on rights-of-way.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Superintendent to purchase a utility vehicle from Good Guys Motorsports for \$10,398 for use by the Sewer and Street Departments for cleaning waterways and to help with mosquito abatement and grounds maintenance, the cost to be split equally between the two departments using excess funds. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the Council the Sewer Department solicited bids for a new ¾ ton truck with a utility bed. Brent explained this truck is needed to replace a 2002 Chevy truck and it is a budgeted item to be paid with operating funds. He received three bids and all three bids met the specifications he supplied to the vendors. The following bids were received:

September 28, 2020

Marion Motors	\$43,661
Vogler Ford	\$42,177
Absher Motors	\$34,055

Brent recommended the Council approve the low bid of \$34,055 from Absher Motors.

Mayor Absher stated Absher Motors is his brother's dealership and he has no ownership in the dealership. While state statute does not require him to abstain from this vote, he plans to do so for appearances. Brent stated the Sewer Department did not solicit a bid from Watermark because of Mayor Absher's ownership of that dealership.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Superintendent to accept the low bid of \$34,055 from Absher-Arnold Motors for a new ¾ ton work truck with utility bed; a budgeted item for the Sewer Department to be paid with operating funds. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

Commissioner Webb made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's approval of a zoning change at PIN #06-14-229-001, 002, 003, 06-14-229-019, 020 from C-1 General Commercial to C-2 Highway Commercial. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

STREET DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Webb explained the Street Department needs to make some repairs to their building because their vehicle testing equipment needs to be stored in a more weatherproof environment. This is a budgeted item.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the low bid from Tru-Bilt for \$10,800 to repair leaks, insulate and add an entrance to the storage room; a budgeted item. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mayor Absher explained Williamson County has long had an enterprise zone and these typically last ten years. The language in our enterprise zone reads that if a developer starts a project in the enterprise zone in the ninth year, they only receive one year of incentives. Ordinance 3657 changes the language to allow for a developer to receive a full ten years of incentives no matter

September 28, 2020

when they start a project in the enterprise zone. Economic Development and Municipal Planning Director Glenn Clarida stated the new enterprise zone will be for five years.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3657 deleting property tax incentive clarifications for the Williamson County Enterprise Zone. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained there is a proposed Second Amendment to the North Commercial TIF District. Ordinance 3658 establishes a date and time (November 23, 2020 at 4:00 PM) for a public hearing for the second amendment. There is a copy of Ordinance 3658 on file for public viewing.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 3658 establishing a date for a public hearing for the proposed Second Amendment to the North Commercial TIF District. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained Ordinances 3659 and 3660 are interrelated. These ordinances are necessary because there are some qualified expenses that need to be reaffirmed for Marion Pepsi and Crisp Container.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 3659 approving the Second Amendment to the Marion TIF District V Redevelopment Agreement between the City and Crisp Realty Company. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 3660 approving the Second Amendment to the Marion TIF District VIII Redevelopment Agreement Between the City and Crisp Realty Company. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Economic Development and Municipal Planning Director Glenn Clarida told the Council there is a lift station in the industrial park and a force main that need replaced. He explained this is a crucial lift station that serves five others and pumps to the lift station at Halfway Road. It hasn't been upgraded since the mid 1990's. He and Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain filed an application for a grant with Delta Regional Authority to fund the project. The City received a

September 28, 2020

grant for \$225,000 from DRA and will be responsible for providing \$103,000 in matching funds. Resolution 2020-54 ensures the City will provide their portion of the funding for the project.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-54 authorizing Mayor Absher to perform certain administrative duties on behalf of the City of Marion in dealing with the federal award from the Delta Regional Authority. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained Ordinance 3662 is not for acquiring new debt, but for refinancing current debt. By refinancing these bonds, the City will save approximately \$819,000 in interest. Mayor Absher stated he appreciates Treasurer Hale and the City's Bond Counsel looking for opportunities to save money.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3662 an ordinance providing for the issuance of \$10,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2020. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher stated the City can purchase properties located at 1104 and 1117 Midway Court for approximately \$15,000.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the execution of a purchase contract for properties located at 1104 and 1117 Midway Court. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department continues to work on sidewalks, cleaning ditches and culverts, and painting crosswalks. They finished striping the Tower Square. He also reported the Cemetery Department had 17 burials during the month of September. Normally, the cemetery has between ten and fifteen burials per month. Sealing of the streets in Maplewood and Oddfellows cemeteries starts tomorrow.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report for the month of September. He reminded citizens the Water Department started flushing watermain today in the Southwest quadrant of the City. He shared some trivia with the Council. In 1918, during World War I, Marion residents could only use water for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. In 1921, the City built the current City Lake which provided a six-month supply of water. Commissioner Stoecklin also mentioned the fantastic job on the mural project in Paradise Alley.

September 28, 2020

Mayor Absher reported alleys around the Tower Square will be turned in to “on ramps” for the Square as part of the downtown revitalization plan. The mural is complete in Paradise Alley and lights will be hung above the alley to light up the area for walking after dark. The pavement will also be seal coated. Mayor Absher added the last public hanging at the jail took place in Paradise Alley. According to history, the alley was named Paradise Alley because that’s where people “went to meet their maker” when they were hung there.

Mayor Absher also reported the new Senior Citizens Director Jill Graskewicz is a rock star. He is very pleased with her leadership at the Senior Citizens Center. As of September 28th, 2,900 meals have been served. They will exceed 3,000 meals by the end of the month. This is 180 meals per day up from 140 meals per day. The staff at the Center has been communicating to the senior citizens through fliers and message on their lunch bags. They are also holding free drive-thru health clinics for seniors in October.

Commissioner Barwick had nothing to report.

Police Chief David Fitts announced the Marion Police Department is accepting applications for entry-level police officers. Testing will be held November 14, 2020 at 8:00 am at Marion High School. Applicants must be 21 years old with no criminal record, a valid driver’s license and have a High School Diploma or GED equivalent or three years of active duty military service. Application packets are available at the Marion Police Department.

Mayor Absher announced he is waiting for guidance from the Illinois Municipal League as to whether the City should allow Halloween trick or treating. The Illinois Department of Public Health has not issued any guidelines on trick or treating. The Centers for Disease Control are not recommending trick or treating be allowed. Commissioners Stoecklin, Barwick and Webb agreed trick or treating should be allowed using common sense and precautions.

Police Chief David Fitts announced the Marion Police Department Spooktacular for this year has been cancelled.

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

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

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:37 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:

September 28, 2020



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk