

August 24, 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 Jay Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Deedrick, Local Government Affairs Director for the Illinois Realtors Association addressed the Council regarding an item on the agenda. Mr. Deedrick expressed interest in being part of the discussion of Ordinance 3646 adopting the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code.

Marion resident James Johnson addressed the Council regarding his concerns with current political and economic affairs in the United States.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Mayor Absher stated after a recent weekend, there was trash on the Town & Country Shopping Center parking lot. Building & Code Services Office Manager Kathy Spicer shared a picture of the trash on social media. She challenged area teens to help keep the area clean. After the post, three Marion High School students went out and picked up six bags of trash from the parking lot. Mayor Absher recognized those students, Morgan Motsinger, Carlie Piercy and Cannon Walters for their act of kindness. Ms. Motsinger was present at the meeting and Mayor Absher presented her with a certificate of appreciation and a City of Marion Challenge Coin. He expressed his appreciation for the students' dedication to the community.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Absher explained the purpose of Ordinance 3648 is to expand the Police and Fire Merit Board from three members to five members. He stated this is in no way an indictment against the current board. He explained the Merit Board is an independent body and plays an integral role in helping to hire, retain, promote and discipline Police Officers and Firefighters. Mayor Absher believes there is a need to expand the number of members on this board, especially in the current environment. He believes this board can help to recruit and inspire individuals to choose policing and fire service as their vocation.

Commissioner Barwick expressed his concern over the recommended appointees for the Police and Fire Merit Board. He indicated that he is in support of expanding the number of board members. He stated the current board members are a retired police officer, a retired teacher and a physical therapist. He believes it is important to have the retired police officer on the board to be able to have his input in various situations that arise. He thinks the board should also include a retired firefighter to be able to have the same valuable experience to draw from. He indicated that he in no way has negative opinions of the two recommended appointees, he just feels it would be helpful to have the fire background on the board as well.

Merit Board member Jay Pardus addressed the Council. He stated he had corresponded with the attorney for the Illinois Fire and Police Commissioners Association, John Broyer. Mr. Broyer

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applauded the expansion of the board. Jay also commented that the board has been very fortunate to have outstanding Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs in both departments. The Merit Board uses their knowledge and input to help them make decisions.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3648 expanding the Police and Fire Merit board from three members to five. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the appointment of Darrell Wimberly and Rocio Reyes Williams to three-year terms of the Police and Fire Merit Board. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER BARWICK VOTED NO.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Webb made a motion to pass 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.

OLD BUSINESS

BUILDING AND CODE SERVICES

Mayor Absher explained the current Non-Owner-Occupied Housing ordinance was adopted by Council in 2013 and was amended eight months later to remove the contract for deed language. As time has passed, there has been a need to include that language in the ordinance. The proposed ordinance will return the contract for deed language to the ordinance and create a registry of landlords and a list of properties owned. This ordinance will be used to help enforce rental regulations for all landlords. Mayor Absher believes this is a needed change.

City Attorney Wendy Cunningham stated she has made a few additional changes to the ordinance since the packet was published.

Commissioner Patton read all the proposed changes in the ordinance. He asked City Attorney Cunningham about monitoring the contract for deed recordings on a regular basis. She replied she can teach Building and Code Services Office Manager Kathy Spicer to monitor those changes.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3641 amending the Non-Owner-Occupied Housing regulations to include contract for deeds. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

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NEW BUSINESS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve hiring Jay Hall as School Security Officer for the 2020-2021 school year per the intergovernmental agreement with Marion Unit #2 School District at \$20.50/hour with no benefits to be reimbursed by Unit #2. He will start work August 25, 2020. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Police Chief David Fitts stated he was excited to have retired Illinois State Police Lieutenant Jay Hall as a School Security Officer. He introduced Jay to the Council. Jay thanked Mayor Absher and the Commissioners for the opportunity. Jay was sworn in by City Clerk Tammy Beasley.

Chief Fitts told the Council he received a phone call from Country Financial Agent Natasha Stearns last week asking if the Police Department had any needs. Chief Fitts told her the department could use body armor for the new School Security Officer. Chief Fitts introduced Ms. Stearns to the Council and she explained Country Financial has a program called Operation Helping Heroes. Through this program, she was able to donate \$1,000 to the Police Department to purchase body armor for new School Security Officer Hall. Chief Fitts thanked her for the donation.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Police Chief to hire Chandra Boling to the position of Patrol Officer at \$25.46 per hour plus benefits; a budgeted position. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained he has a desire and plan to implement an internship for those students interested in pursuing careers in police and fire service. Chandra Boling, a nine-year veteran of the Williamson County Sheriff's Department, has created a similar curriculum for this type of program for them. Mayor Absher is excited to start this program and see Chandra help to implement it for the City. Chief Fitts stated the City is very fortunate to hire her. He introduced her to the Council. She thanked them for the opportunity to developing the youth program for the community.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the purchase of a patrol vehicle from the Missouri Highway Patrol Fleet Program for total purchase and equipment not to exceed \$33,000; a budgeted item. 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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Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve Ordinance 3647 authorizing the financing for the purchase of two police interceptor vehicles and necessary equipment. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

BUILDING AND CODE SERVICES

Mayor Absher made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's approval of a zoning change at 1310 Norman Road approving ordinance 3644 to rezone PIN #07-17-200-041 and 07-17-400-046 from R-A Rural Agriculture to R-2 General Family Residential. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher announced there would be no action taken tonight on Ordinance 3646 adopting the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code. He explained there is no regulation of residential structures in town. The City can adopt the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code to help with this regulation. He also explained the City does not want to inspect residences. The intention and focus are to meet his campaign promise to clean up the City. The City has little capability to do this through the current ordinances. Adopting this code will give the City a straightforward process to do this.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

City Engineer Brian Ziegler answered questions regarding the detention pond for the subdivision platted as Lincoln Estates. Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3645 approving the subdivision platted as Lincoln Estates. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

STREET DEPARTMENT

Mayor Absher explained the pavement on the Morgan Avenue bridge approach has buckled due to the heat. The bid from Samron is to fix it. Commissioner Webb explained a wider expansion joint will be put in to fix the problem. This will be done using local gas tax funds.

Commissioner Patton asked why the scope of the work in the bid did not include the cost of concrete. Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained the City will pay for the cost of the concrete because the City gets a better cost than the contractor. Commissioner Patton also asked why a bond requirement was excluded from the bid. Economic Development and Municipal Planning Director Glenn Clarida explained that since this is a small job with a reputable contractor, it saves four to five percent on the cost.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the bid from Samron to repair the Morgan Avenue bridge approach for both directions for a total of \$48,743.00 using gas tax. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-53 a resolution of support for a Community Development Block Grant Program grant. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained the proposed five-year service agreement with Protek Communications to install antennas on the water towers located at 211 E Boulevard Street and Shane Lane is because there are some dead spots in town not covered by broadband internet. The addition of these antennas will be able to provide service coverage to many areas of town currently without coverage. With many people working from home and students utilizing remote learning, this is a required service.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve a five-year service agreement with Protek Communications to install internet antennas on the water towers located at 211 East Boulevard Street and Shane Lane. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department is still working on cleaning out ditches and making sidewalk repairs. The Cemetery Department continues mowing and trimming. They have everything looking great in the cemeteries.

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Barwick had nothing to report.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department Report. He also reported prior to 1921, Marion used a system of wells for water. In 1921 they erected the first water tower. The City now has three water towers.

7:16 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). Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

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7:59 P.M.

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

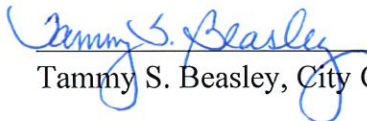
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk