

July 13, 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 6:30 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 former Marion resident and Veterans on Parade Organizer Ed Davis.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Former Marion resident and Veterans on Parade Organizer Ed Davis addressed the Council regarding the status of this year's parade. He and the Parade Committee met and decided to have the parade this year. They have not confirmed a date yet, but think it will be in October, approximately a month later than usual.

City of Marion IT Director Terance Henry and several of his family members addressed the Council. Terance announced that on Saturday, some of his family members were swimming in his pool when his niece almost drowned trying to teach others to swim. His younger niece pulled her from the bottom of the pool and family members sprang into action performing CPR, calling 911 and getting help from neighbor Pete Gordon. Mr. Gordon performed CPR on Terance's niece until first responders arrived. Terance thanked City of Marion Police Officers and United Ambulance crews who responded to the call. Mayor Absher recognized MPD Officers Steve Sloan, Chuck Welge and Trent Harrison for their response to the call. Mayor Absher presented Officer Steve Sloan and neighbor Pete Gordon with certificates of appreciation and City of Marion challenge coins. Mayor Absher also recognized Derrick Gaither, Michael Willis, Joe Vaughn, Tristan Houseworth and Cynthia Campbell of United Ambulance who responded on Saturday. Police Chief David Fitts and Police and Fire Commissioner John Barwick were also present for the presentations.

Marion resident Dennis Ball addressed the council. He expressed his appreciation for the state's agriculture production and congratulated Mayor Absher for doing an excellent job.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to pass the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

SENIOR CITIZENS

Mayor Absher announced Senior Citizens Center Director Letina Poole will be retiring at the end of the month. He introduced Jill Lindsey-Graskewicz, a West Frankfort native, as his recommendation to fill the Senior Citizens Center Director position. Jill stated she has 20 years experience working with senior citizens and is excited to be considered for this position. Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the Mayor's recommendation to hire Jill

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Lindsey-Graskewicz as Director at a salary of \$50,000 plus benefits effective July 27, 2020. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Mayor Absher introduced Community Program Director Allison Hasler. He announced Allison began working as Community Program Director in May. He explained he tried to hire Allison after he was elected, and it took a year to hire her. Allison addressed the council explaining she feels like a special projects manager with some grant administration and community engagement thrown in. Allison listed some of the grants she has obtained or is working to obtain. She also mentioned she is working with Marion United and others to put together a Fall Festival on the Square and a Holiday Market.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS

Water and Sewer Department Superintendent Brent Cain explained to the Council there are 324 water meters left to replace with new Zenner meters. These meters are located in places that make them hard to replace. Water Field Supervisor Cliff Hogue, Jr. has indicated that purchasing copper setters would make replacement of those meters easier. Brent said by making one large purchase, the City will receive better pricing. He received the following bids:

Midwest Meter, Inc. \$68,250

IMCO Utility Supply Co. \$61,508

Brent recommended the Council approve the low bid from IMCO Utility Supply Co.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the bid from IMCO Utility Supply Co. for copper settings to conclude the water meter replacement project at a cost of \$61,508.50, a budgeted item. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Brent Cain explained the requested Water and Sewer Department promotions are for backfilling positions due to promotions. Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the following budgeted Water and Sewer Department promotions:

- Promotion of Scott Clarida to Outside Lead Person to fill the vacancy created by Cliff Hogue, Jr. at a base hourly rate of \$26.47 plus benefits per the bargaining agreement.
- Promotion of Collin Basham to Assistant Outside Lead Person to fill the vacancy created by Scott Clarida at a base hourly rate of \$24.48 plus benefits per the bargaining agreement.
- Adjust Tyler Smith's base rate to reflect the base rate defined by the contract for his Chief Operator Position from \$25.27 to \$26.47 per hour; represents a \$2,016 difference in pay; will be within budget.

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- Change John Boan's status from temporary to full-time permanent at a base hourly rate of \$16.99 per hour.

Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief David Fitts explained the purchase of new tasers, charges for the tasers and equipment is a budgeted item, however, the Police Department is using grant funds secured by Safety Director Brian Fisher and drug funds to pay for these items. The items being replaced are old equipment and there are no repair parts available for them anymore. Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the purchase of new tasers and equipment using grant, drug and operating funds (as necessary); a budgeted item. 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's Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained Ordinance 3631 is a name change only, adding two people and an LLC to the agreement between the City and Little Tractor & Equipment. Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3631 approving and authorizing the execution of a First Amendment to the TIF District Redevelopment Agreement by and between the City of Marion and Little Tractor & Equipment – Ferrell, LLC and Justin Ferrell and Charles J Ferrell and CJ Land Williamson, LLC. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained Ordinance 3632 is a TIF redevelopment agreement with Steve and Shari Fowler. They have purchased one of the older buildings on the Square to rehab. They plan on renovating the building from the basement to the roof. Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3632 a Hub TIF redevelopment agreement with SS Fowler, LLC. Commissioner Patton 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 Ordinance 3633 a Hub TIF redevelopment agreement with Seasoning, LLC. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher asked Economic Development and Municipal Planning Director Glenn Clarida to clarify what is going on with the Westminster Drive project. Glenn explained there have been

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many changes to the project over the last few years. The project was originally to widen and resurface Westminster Drive, with no curb and gutter and open ditches. The cost of this project was to be between \$400,000 and \$500,000. Illinois Department of Transportation decided to replace the original bridge over Interstate 57. With the widening of the bridge, Westminster drive will be resurfaced and will have curb and gutter, storm sewers, inlets and sidewalks. Permanent stop lights and center turn lanes will be installed at the intersection of Westminster Drive and Carbon Street. The new estimated cost for the project will be \$1.4 million. The City will receive \$400,000 from the State. \$300,000 will be grant funds and \$100,000 will be for construction engineering and staking. The letting of the contract for the bridge will be July 30, 2021. Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Clarida & Ziegler Engineering Co. Revised Westminster Drive Contract. The City has already paid \$58,000 of the \$117,000 design engineering fee and \$8,410 of the \$14,000 right of way. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Barwick read the Marion Police Department Narcotics Unit Report for June. He also read the Marion Police and Fire Department Reports for June. In reading the reports, he announced there were 4,708 dispatch calls, 2,756 9-1-1 calls and 200 ambulance calls during the month.

Commissioner Webb announced the Street Department paving program is almost complete. Pavement striping will be completed by Street Department crews. Sidewalk work continues throughout the City. The Cemetery crews continue mowing and trimming.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department Report for June. He reported they received 302 JULIE locates during the month and the City used 60 million gallons of water during the month. He also thanked everyone involved in the Knights of Columbus July 4th Celebration including the citizens, Police and Fire departments.

Commissioner Patton reported the municipal sales tax received for April was only down 11.4%. This was much better than many of our neighboring communities. He was expecting a decrease of 20% or more.

Commissioner Barwick commented he wanted to recognize the Police and Fire Departments. He stated he is very proud of both departments and wanted them to know he has their backs.

Police Chief David Fitts also stated he failed to recognize dispatchers Justin Wing, Holly Newlin and Jordan Hentz who also participated in helping to save Terance's niece.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Mayor Absher proposed the City Council move Council meetings to 5:30 PM from 6:30 PM. He stated if the Commissioners were not opposed, Chief of Staff Cody Moake will work on preparing an ordinance for that change for the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Absher announced there would be executive session this evening to discuss sale or lease of public property and litigation.

7:30 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) and Litigation 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.

9:50 P.M.

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

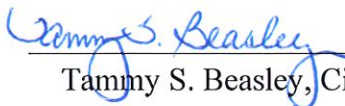
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:51 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk