

January 10, 2022

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, AND
STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER.

PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: COMMISSIONER WEBB.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Absher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Absher explained Ordinance 3766 was on the previous agenda in draft form. City Attorney Wendy Cunningham told the Council she had heard nothing from constituents or the public since the draft ordinance had been available to the public after the last council meeting.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3766 prohibiting Aggravated Public Nuisances. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND
STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER WEBB
ABSTAINED BECAUSE HE COULD NOT HEAR THE DISCUSSION DUE TO
TECHNICAL ISSUES.

Commissioner Webb decided to leave the meeting due to technical issues with attending via telephone.

Marion Cultural and Civic Center Executive Director Josh Benson told the Council the Civic Center needed to convert house lighting to LED. He had previously received two bids from Byassee Music and Sound and one of those bids included an item that was an audio item. Both bids were consolidated into one and the audio item was removed. The bids were received as follows:

Midwest Music Supply	\$14,325
Byassee Music and Sound	\$14,587

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Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the bid of \$14,325 from Midwest Music for new lighting at the Civic Center. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Merit Board, Commissioner Barwick and Chief Fitts to promote Douglas Schrock to the position of Sergeant effective Tuesday, January 11, 2022 to fill the Sergeant vacancy created by the retirement of Sergeant Michael Baxter. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion

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

Police Chief David Fitts introduced Sergeant Schrock to the Council. He told them Sergeant Schrock is a graduate of SIU and is originally from the Peoria area. He has worked at the Police Department for six and a half years. Sergeant Daniel Ogden addressed the Council. He told them the newer Sergeants want to start a tradition of providing newly promoted Sergeants with their first set of chevrons.

Commissioner Barwick made the motion to approve the recommendation of Commissioner Barwick and Chief Fitts to hire Bill True as a School Security Officer at the agreed upon pay rate between Marion Unit 2 School District and the City of Marion. Mr. True will start Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Chief Fitts told the Council Mr. True was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He is retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the Council during the scheduled tank inspections they discovered some damage to the galvanized metal in the aeration basins. Brent said they looked into repairing the damage, but decided replacement was the best option to get additional service from the equipment. The employees will replace the parts so there will be no additional labor costs. The total cost of \$72,212 is not budgeted for the current year. Brent explained there is a 16-week lead time on getting the parts, so they need to be ordered now, but will be received in the next budget year.

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Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the purchase of new aeration equipment for the Schreiber plant. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher told the Council the Water Department has received three bids for a new truck. The bids received were as follows:

Vogler Ford	\$27,064.00 (if the government discount holds)
Absher-Arnold Motors	\$33,092.24
Marion Motors, LLC	\$38,970.24

Mayor Absher told the Council the most competitive bid received was from Vogler Ford. This is for a 2022 Ford F150 Supercab 4x4XL base work truck with extended cab, no additional options, and V6 gas engine. The bid is net of the government fleet incentive. Vogler Ford will have to order the truck as a retail unit and deduct the fleet incentive from the price. The fleet incentive isn't guaranteed, so the City will not have to purchase the vehicle if the price isn't competitive. Mayor Absher told the Council the bid for the truck that is available right now is \$12,000 higher than the bid from Vogler. The bid from Marion Motors, LLC is for a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LTD Custom 4x4 Crew. The bid from Absher-Arnold Motors is for a 2022 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4x4 pickup and is \$6,000 higher. It also must be ordered with an estimated ship time of 15 to 20 weeks. Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the Council the bid from Vogler Ford is the best option.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the purchase of a new truck for the Water Department. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake told the Council Dr. Smith needs to run a sewer line extension from a City owned parcel to property he owns south of Pet Wellness Center. This extension is needed for property Dr. Smith is subdividing for a commercial development. The utilities for Pet Wellness Center are unable to extend beyond the facility due to topography issues. Cody recommended the City reimburse Dr. Smith 50% of the total project and engineering costs of \$70,385.30. This commits the City to a total of \$35,192.65 for the reimbursement. Commissioner Patton asked if this extends the existing sewer line to Meadowland Parkway where Dr. Smith can attach to it and extend to his development. Cody confirmed Commissioner Patton is correct.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve reimbursement for the Meadowland Parkway sewer extension project using TIF funds. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher told the Council the change order for the City Hall Project is because there are hundreds of safe deposit boxes that must be removed. Cody told the Council he has tried to sell the safe deposit boxes and has been unsuccessful with that. He also told them he took Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips to the bank building to look at the vault and safe deposit boxes to see if the Street Department employees might be able to do the removal and save the City some money.

Mayor Absher tabled the change order for City Hall to a later meeting.

Mayor Absher told the Council the OSHA Vaccine Mandate is currently before the Supreme Court. The City falls under the jurisdiction of Illinois OSHA. Illinois OSHA adopted the federal OSHA Vaccine Mandate. He told the Council the City has a tight timeline to comply with the Illinois OSHA mandate.

City Attorney Wendy Cunningham and Human Resources Director Jessica Force were on hand to present the OSHA requirements to the Council and answer any questions. Wendy told the Council OSHA requires employers with 100 or more employees to put a policy in place either mandating vaccines for all employees or requiring unvaccinated employees to submit to weekly COVID tests. The policy is required to be in place by February 24, 2022. The testing procedures are required to be in place by March 25, 2022. Employees must also submit proof of their vaccine status to their employer. Wendy told the Council disclosure of vaccine status is not a HIPAA violation. She told them Jessica has certain record keeping requirements involved with this, also. Wendy told the Council the Supreme Court could issue a stay on the mandate, but until the City hears something from Illinois OSHA, they will have to move forward to comply with the policy. The fine for noncompliance is approximately \$14,000 per day.

Wendy and Jessica answered questions from Mayor Absher and Commissioners Stoecklin, Patton and Barwick. Mayor Absher and the Council expressed to the audience their feelings about having to put this policy in place. Mayor Absher told the audience the City can repeal this policy at anytime should OSHA requirements change.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3767 establishing the City's policy per OSHA's COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

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MISCELLANEOUS

Police Chief David Fitts addressed the Council regarding traffic issues near the SIH facility in front of Walmart. Chief Fitts explained the number of people waiting in line to test for COVID at that facility has dramatically increased. Some of the vehicles in the line are blocking the entrances to the strip mall that includes the Thai-D restaurant. Chief Fitts asked the public to please keep those entrances open so the businesses located there do not lose customers. Mayor Absher announced there are other COVID testing facilities in our area. There is an SIH testing site at their warehouse facility on Reed Station Road. There is also a testing site on the east side of Heartland Regional Medical Center.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Webb was absent.

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Barwick read the December reports for the Police Department, Animal Control, Fire Department, Detective Unit and Narcotics Unit. He reported for 2021, there were 59,845 dispatched calls: 38,107 911 calls and 4,332 ambulance calls.

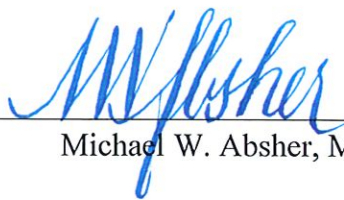
Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report for 2021. He reminded everyone City Hall will be closed on January 17, 2022 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He also reminded everyone the Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon at the Pavilion will be January 17th at 11:00 am.

Mayor Absher stated there was no need for executive session this evening.

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

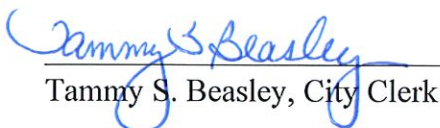
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER WEBB ABSENT.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:27 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk