

March 14, 2022

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

March 14, 2022

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 one of the Girl Scouts in attendance.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

There were several Girl Scouts and Co-Leaders from Troop 8077 in attendance for recognition of Girl Scout Week. Mayor Absher read a proclamation marking the 110th anniversary of Girl Scouts and declaring the week of March 6-12, 2022, as Girl Scout Week. He presented the proclamation to Troop 8077 Co-Leader Allison Weaver. The Girl Scouts gathered in front of the Council for a group picture and handed out boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to Mayor Absher and each Commissioner.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marion resident James E. “Jimmy” Johnson addressed the Council. He read from a prepared statement. He expressed concerns about election petition signatures and the state of the Williamson County government’s finances.

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 told the Council the item of Old Business was tabled at the last council meeting at the request of Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips. Doug wanted to verify the dollar amount on the resolution with IDOT. Commissioner Webb explained the \$50,000 on Resolution 2022-09 represents the amount of MFT funds to be spent on the East DeYoung Street from State Street to Fair Street sidewalk project. He told the council the City must adopt the resolution to spend the MFT funds. He said \$50,000 represents twenty percent of the total project cost.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-09 IDOT Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code for East DeYoung Street from State Street to Fair Street. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

March 14, 2022

Mayor Absher asked Mr. Beltz if he had any comments regarding his request for a special use permit at 1615 Emery Lane. Mr. Beltz said he did not.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's approval of a Special Use permit to build a pole barn on a two-acre lot in an R-2 General Family Residential zone at 1615 Emery Lane, PIN 06-12-354-006 (Robert Beltz). Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher told the Council the Special Use Permit request to offer childcare for infants and toddlers was made by Robin's Nest on East College Street. Commissioner Barwick asked Building and Code Services Director Tim Stotlar if there were any objections to this request. Mr. Stotlar said there were none. Commissioner Patton asked for the location of this facility in relation to the nearby grade school.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's approval of a Special Use Permit to offer childcare for infants and toddlers in an R-2 General Family Residential zone at 412 East College Street, PIN 07-18-392-020 (Robin's Nest). Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Since there were many residents in attendance for the discussion on the Zoning Board's approval of a Special Use permit to build a Hydraulic Repair/Machine Shop at 700 Old Creal Springs Road, Mayor Absher proposed a process for comments from attendees. He explained he wanted Darrell Ross and Jerry Beasley to speak and any other attendees with additional points to address. Darrell Ross, owner of the property on East Boyton Street near Old Creal Springs Road and applicant for the Special Use Permit spoke first. He explained his Hydraulic Repair/Machine Shop is an extension of his coal mining parts business located on East Boyton Street. He stated he believes there is a lot of misconception as to what he wants to do. He wants to move the operation from the current location in Galatia so that everything is more centralized. He explained the operation, number of employees, handling of shipments and deliveries, removal of hydraulic oil, noise levels, etc. He explained he would never build something that would be detrimental to his investment in rental properties located nearby.

Marion resident and realtor Jerry Beasley is opposed to the Hydraulic Repair/Machine Shop being built in that area. He also lives in the neighborhood and is concerned for the affect it will have on property values. He and his son Brent addressed the Council regarding the zoning classification of the property. They feel the commercial zoning classification is incorrect due to the proposed use of the property and definitions in the city zoning code. They feel this business is more suited to an industrial park setting. They asked Mr. Ross questions and voiced their concerns to the Council. Other residents from the neighborhood also voiced their concerns and

March 14, 2022

expressed their opposition to the project. The manager from the nearby trailer park expressed his support for Mr. Ross.

After lengthy discussion by all parties, Mayor Absher called for a vote.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to overrule the Zoning Board's approval of a Special Use Permit to build a Hydraulic Repair/Machine Shop at 700 Old Creal Springs Road, PIN 07-20-152-012, 07-20-152-013, 07-20-152-014 (Darrell Ross). 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

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-10 applying for an award with the Delta Regional Authority for the fiscal year 2021 federal award program cycle.

Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher told the Council territory is being added to the Enterprise Zone for a proposed hotel on The Hill Avenue.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3787 Adding Territory to the Williamson County Enterprise Zone. 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 the recommendation of Commissioner Barwick and Chief Fitts to hire Brad Dillard as a School Security Officer at the agreed upon rate between Marion Unit 2 School District and the City of Marion. Mr. Dillard will start Friday, March 18, 2022. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the Council the bids received on one Water and one Sewer project were significantly higher than originally expected. He said the bid that was approved to construct the new water tower was \$1,000,000 higher than the funds that were originally borrowed. He said the estimates for the South Market Street sewer project that is getting ready to bid have inflated and additional funds will be needed. He explained the ten-year loans the City currently has will need to be financed with longer terms to meet the debt service

March 14, 2022

requirements. He told the Council he would like permission to get the City's bond counsel, Jeff Schuppel, working through the numbers to get everything in place to refinance the debt.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve refinancing debt for water and sewer projects. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the Council he has researched expected costs on purchasing a service truck and a diesel pump that are needed by his department. He told them it is getting very costly to rent this equipment when needed. He said purchasing new equipment is not reasonable. His employees have been researching finding used equipment through auctions that will meet their needs. He is asking for pre-approval to search for and purchase these used equipment items. He will ask for approval upon purchase when they locate items that meet their needs. He believes purchasing these items used will save the City money, as they will cost half the price of new equipment. He said these items are budgeted for fiscal year 2023.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the purchases of a used service truck for an amount not to exceed \$75,000 and a used diesel pump for an amount not to exceed \$15,000; budgeted items for FY 2023. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the Council two of the sewer treatment plant's Aerzen blowers need replaced. These were budgeted for purchase in 2022 but were not purchased. Due to the long lead times, he would like to go ahead and order the blowers. He said they will not be delivered until fiscal year 2023.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to purchase two new Aerzen blowers at a cost of \$25,382.58; a budgeted item for FY 2023. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The framework for the American Rescue Plan allocations was tabled. Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained the grant portion for non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations. He told the Council \$200,000 of the American Rescue Plan funds have been allocated for a grant program for non-profit organizations. The non-profit organizations will be required to submit proposals for the use of the funds. They may apply for either a restricted grant or an unrestricted grant. Cody told the Council applications could start being accepted as early as tomorrow if there are no changes made to the program. He said a due date for applications can be set and grant awards announced this Summer. He explained non-profit organizations can apply for up to \$20,000. A committee will help grade applications. Commissioner Barwick has agreed to serve on the committee, if

March 14, 2022

needed. He told the Council he has also asked Chamber Director Karen Mullins and retired CPA Wayne Tate to sit on the committee.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Patton reported the Treasurer's Office has a new hire starting March 21, 2022.

Commissioner Barwick read the Police Department and Narcotics Unit reports for February. He reported there were 6,277 dispatched calls; 2,695 911 calls and 239 ambulance calls during the month of February.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since last council meeting. He reported construction on a new watermain will begin on March 28, 2022, on the east side of Otis Street. Residents there will see some disruption in water service. He announced the Laundry & Literacy Days at Wonder Wash on March 16, 2022, and March 31, 2022.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department continues work on sidewalks. They are also working on demolitions in the Midway Court area. The Cemetery Department is getting ready for mowing season. They had 16 burials during the first half of March.

7:39 PM

Mayor Absher made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

7:42 P.M.

Mayor Absher made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Webb 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.

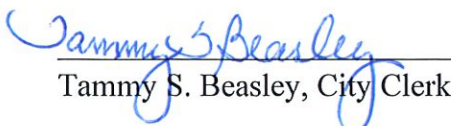
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:43 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk