

April 11, 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 WEBB AND MAYOR ABSHER.

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Absher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marion resident Carmen Allen Adeoye addressed the Council. She thanked them for the \$500,000 in ARPA funds awarded to the Boyton Center for improvements. She expressed her concern as to why it was initially stated the Center was to receive \$1 million and that amount changed. She also expressed concerns as to why there was never a meeting to allow public input as to how the funds should be allocated. She told the Council she is a member of Connect 360. She explained they have contributed time and money to reaching out to people who fall through the cracks and who are not served on any level. She wants to find a way to work with the City as partners to provide services to those in that population.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

Mayor Absher asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak for or against the zoning change at 1223 South Court Street. Brit Kirby, owner of the property at 1223 South Court Street was present to address the Council in favor of the zoning change. Business owner Barrett Fox was present to express concerns regarding the zoning change. Mr. Kirby told the Council he is asking to have the zoning changed from Mobile Home to C-1 Commercial. He plans to build a laundromat there. Commissioner Barwick asked about the hours of operation for the laundromat. Mr. Kirby told him it would be open 24 hours seven days per week. He is not currently planning on having employees there but will if necessary. He told the Council he will have security cameras that he can monitor from his phone.

Barrett Fox owns a business located on the property next door to 1223 South Court Street. He employs 20 full-time employees there. He also owns residential rental property in that area. He told the Council there have been issues with homeless people living under the bridge at the end of Wildcat Road. He is concerned people will loiter in the laundromat since it will be open 24 hours unmanned. He said he has noticed there is an increased police presence in the mobile home court already. He is also concerned because there is no plan for fencing around the

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laundromat. Mr. Fox told the Council he has no problems with changing the zoning to C-1. His concern is with the business being open 24 hours. He is worried there will be issues with homeless people loitering and potential crimes being committed. He told the Council he would feel better if the business was staffed.

Mr. Kirby told the Council he thinks homelessness is an issue all over town.

Commissioner Barwick told the Council he had the Police Department pull numbers on calls to the 24-hour laundromat on North Court Street. He said 60 percent of the calls occurred between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. and they were calls for loitering. He stated he feels there is a need for this type of business on South Court Street, but he is concerned about it being unmanned. He feels like there will be an increase in calls to the Police Department to run off people loitering.

Mayor Absher stated he thinks the property should be rezoned to C-1. He thinks the all-night operation is a valid concern. Commissioner Patton stated he thinks updating zoning should be done annually or every two years or so. He thinks the City needs to be receptive to trends and plan for certain areas of town. Commissioner Barwick has no issues with changing zoning. He is concerned about crime and police calls. He is okay with seeing what happens with the business opening being unmanned.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's approval of a zoning change at 1223 South Court Street, PIN 06-24-476-004, Ordinance 3796, from MH Mobile Home to C-1 General Commercial with the understanding that Mr. Kirby agrees to discuss any necessary remedies that may arise. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the Council the Agreement for Engineering Services with Clarida & Ziegler Engineering Co. is a continuation of the agreement the City had for the preliminary work on the sewer rehab project. He explained since the preliminary work on that project is complete, this agreement is for the design phase of the project.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the Agreement for Engineering Services with Clarida & Ziegler Engineering Co. for the Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

HUB RECREATION CENTER

Mayor Absher called Hub Recreation Center General Manager Chris Georgantas to the podium to introduce his new hire for Aquatics Coordinator. Chris told the Council Johnathan Crouse has held all positions in the Aquatics Center at the Hub. He told them it should be a seamless

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transition from Andrew Allen to Johnathan Crouse. He introduced Johnathan to the Council and audience.

PUBLIC WORKS (CONTINUED)

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the Council the purchase of Purafil media for the air filters at the west plant is a routine, budgeted item. He explained this is the carbon media for the air filtration system at the west plant.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the purchase of Purafil media for the air filters at the west plant at a cost of \$8,866.50, a budgeted item. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the purchase of 1124 Midway Court for \$15,000 and 1221 Midway Court for \$25,000. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher told the Council two years ago the City had asked IHDA for help with planning in the Midway Court/Concord Street area. IHDA provided a free assessment to the City. He told them it is more of a demographic study. He said the City is seeking more affordable housing for residents. By having the study completed, extra points will be allocated to developers seeking IHDA assistance. IHDA will also help developers advertise their housing developments. The City must adopt the plan for this to happen.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the City of Marion Housing Needs Assessment & Community Revitalization Plan. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake told the Council the roof at the Library is leaking. The roof at the Fire Department has been budgeted for replacement for the last two years. It is not currently leaking, but due to rising material costs, it makes sense to go ahead with the replacement. He said multiple bids were received, but Reynolds Roofing gave the City a multi-building discount of \$7,420 for both buildings. The bid for the Library is \$31,190 and the bid for the Fire Department is \$33,810. The bid for the Fire Department is more because the square footage of that building is slightly larger. He told them several bids were received for the Library, but they were significantly more than the combined bid from Reynolds. He said the anticipated life of the new roofs for each building is twenty plus years. Reynolds also offers a ten-year warranty on each. Both projects will be completed this summer.

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Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the bid of \$65,000 from Reynolds Roofing to replace the roof at Marion Carnegie Library and Marion Fire Department, a budgeted item.

Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Patton read the Water Department report since the last council meeting in Commissioner Stoecklin's absence. He reminded everyone City Hall will be closed for Good Friday. He reminded everyone there is a link on the website to the live view on the Square and wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Commissioner Patton announced the draft budget for May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 is ready for public inspection at the City Clerk's office in City Hall and on the City's website.

Commissioner Barwick read the Fire Department, Police Department and Narcotics Unit reports for March. He reported there were 7,250 dispatch calls, 2,024 911 calls and 281 ambulance calls during the month of March.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department continues sidewalk replacement, ditching and culvert repairs. He reminded everyone the Spring Cleanup starts April 18. He reported the Cemetery Department had 23 burials during the month of March.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no miscellaneous items to come before Council.

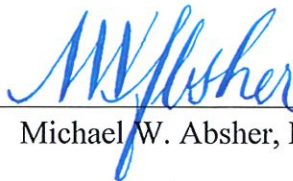
CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

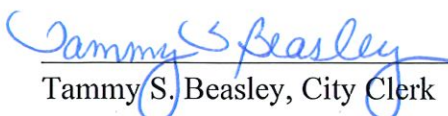
Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:24 P.M.


Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk