

May 9, 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, WEBB, AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Absher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Aaron White addressed the Council asking about damage to streets near Fowler Heating & Cooling. He said the streets are washed out from a watermain break. He said the street behind Small's has a box culvert that is sinking, and the Boyton Street and Market Street intersection also needs repair. He is concerned the streets are destroying cars. He said he has had to alter his route to work due to the terrible streets in town. He said sidewalks are being replaced but no one is utilizing them. He thinks the money being spent on sidewalks needs to be spent fixing streets. Mayor Absher told him the resurfacing program will start soon, but he is not sure which streets will be included.

Charlotte Dunning addressed the Council about a skunk problem in her neighborhood. She said there is a den of skunks under her neighbor's screened porch. She called a commercial pest control company and the cost to catch the skunk was \$475. She told the Council she cannot afford to pay that. She told them her dog was sprayed last week and several neighbors have seen the skunks around the neighborhood. She explained the skunks get into her fenced yard and she cannot let the dog out into that area. She told the Council she has left messages for Animal Control asking for help. Commissioner Barwick assured her Animal Control would be in touch with her. Mayor Absher told her the City currently has an issue with licensing and relocating the skunks. Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained one of the Animal control Officers is registered to take the class to be able to relocate skunks. Mayor Absher explained the state law currently says skunks can only be relocated 150 feet.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mayor Absher explained bonds are being issued for debt service. Commissioner Stoecklin said the bonds will cover various water and sewer project costs, including the South Market Sewer Extension and the East Elevated Water Tank. They will also cover the costs to retire other debt. Mayor Absher added there are no quotes on interest rates yet.

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Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3806, an ordinance providing for the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2022 to an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,700,000. 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 told the Council he received three bids for Ford Explorer Interceptors. The bid from Morrow Brothers Ford is the state bid. The vehicles will have to be ordered and will take 120 to 180 days for delivery. He told the Council there are currently five or six vehicles in the fleet with miles in excess of 110,000. These are seven to eight years old. Mayor Absher asked what would be done with the older vehicles. Chief Fitts told him occasionally smaller towns request to purchase them. Chief Fitts told the Council Vogler Ford bid but did not have any vehicles in stock. Jim Hayes Ford also bid, but they only had one vehicle in stock.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the request of Commissioner Barwick and Chief Fitts for the police department to purchase five 2022 Police Ford Explorer Interceptor vehicles at \$225,000, fully equipped from Morrow Brothers Ford; a budgeted item. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Police Chief David Fitts told the Council the Laser Tech total station can be used for crash reconstruction and crime scene investigation. He said the Police Department currently has a total station, but it is outdated and not functioning.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of Commissioner Barwick and Chief Fitts to purchase a Laser Tech total station at a cost of \$8,251 for the purpose of Crash Reconstruction Investigation, a budgeted item. Commissioner Stoecklin 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 Absher made a motion to approve the purchase of 1217 Midway Court PIN 06-24-328-016. 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 and audience Reader Link applied for a \$1 million CDBG grant through DCEO. The grant is to help purchase equipment for their facility. DCEO requires the grant to pass through the City to Reader Link. The City uses Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission to administer the grant. They also wrote the grant. Their fee to

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write and administer the grant is three percent of the total grant and is paid from the grant proceeds, not out of the City budget.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the Agreement for Grant Consultation and Other Professional Services with Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission regarding CDBG Award #20-241001. 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 next three agenda items are all related to the process of establishing Residential TIF II. He said it has been a six-month process to develop the second Residential TIF. The City has followed all statutory requirements to create the TIF. Item C is the ordinance that approves the redevelopment plan. Item D is the ordinance that designates the project area. Item E is the ordinance that adopts Tax Increment Financing for the plan and area.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3803 Approving the Redevelopment Plan and Projects for the Marion Residential TIF District II. 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 Ordinance 3804 Designating the Redevelopment Project Area for the Marion Residential TIF District II. 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 3805 adopting Tax Increment Allocation Financing for the Marion Residential TIF District II. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher told the Council and audience Darrell Ross is purchasing 2.25 acres in the Butler Industrial Park at \$10,000 per acre. Mr. Ross is the owner of the machine shop that was not approved to be built near the corner of East Boyton Street and Old Creal Springs Road. Commissioner Barwick stated he thinks the City needs to include a right of buy back clause in the agreement which would include reimbursement of original sale costs and other costs. City Attorney Wendy Cunningham told the Council Mr. Ross is paying all closing costs.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the sale of 2.25 acres of land in the Butler Industrial Park to S.I. Properties, LLC upon the condition City Attorney Wendy Cunningham adds

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language stating the buyer and seller fees will be deducted from the \$22,500 in the event the City buys back the property. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher told the Council in a prior meeting they had voted to purchase cars for the IT department. Ordinance 3807 is to approve financing for the cars. Bids received for the financing were as follows:

Banterra Bank	2.40%
First Southern Bank	2.84%
Farmers State Bank	3.25%
US Bank	3.99%

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3807 approving a financing agreement with Banterra Bank to finance the two IT vehicle purchases. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake addressed the Council regarding the municipal facilities electric supplier. He first told them there was a typographical error in the information provided to them. The 48-month rate for Constellation should be \$0.9767. Cody told the Council energy prices are skyrocketing. The contract for City owned and operated facilities ends in June. Cody provided competitive bid results from Homefield Energy, AEP Energy, Constellation, and MidAmerican Energy. The quotes from each supplier were for 12 months, 24 months, 36 months, and 48 months. He told them he was still working to confirm rates from Ameren. The City's energy consultant Affordable Gas & Electric has provided Ameren rates to the City, but Cody explained he wanted to confirm those with Ameren. He told the Council he hopes to confirm those rates soon. He said pricing is fluctuating daily. Jordan Haarmann, Energy Management Consultant with Affordable Gas & Electric, addressed the Council. He explained if the City does not wish to choose any of the bids presented, they can return to Ameren as the electric supplier. The City will have 60 days to choose a supplier. After 60 days, if no supplier is chosen, the City will be locked in with Ameren for 10 months. He explained Ameren has filed preliminary rates with the Illinois Commerce Commission. They will make their formal filing on May 20. He doesn't think there will be much change in rates from the preliminary filing. He answered questions the Council had. After lengthy discussion, Mayor Absher called for a vote.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the 48-month contract with Constellation as the municipal facilities electric supplier. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

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COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Barwick had nothing to report.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since last meeting. He congratulated the 2022 graduates.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department continues to work on drainage issues. They are currently working on South Third Street. He said they are also working on storm sewers on Jones Street. They have replaced tiles on Second Street. They are also back to repairing sidewalks. Commissioner Webb told the council four Street Department employees have temporarily transferred to the Cemetery Department to help with mowing and trimming. He also read the GIS report for the Cemetery.

MISCELLANEOUS

Police Chief David Fitts announced entry-level police officer testing will be June 18 at the high school. Application packets are available online or at the Police Department.

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.

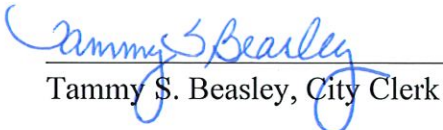
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:47 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk