

June 27, 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 Fire Chief Tim Barnett.

Fire Chief Tim Barnett introduced new Firefighter Ben Schultz to the Council and audience. He told the Council Ben has six years experience as a Firefighter. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and is a certified Arson Investigator. His wife Heather and two children were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Rendleman lives at 1809 Suzanne Drive. She told the Council she was representing several of her neighbors. She explained Julie McAlpin from Warren Drive has put up a fence around her back yard and has people coming and going from her house and cars parked out front. Ms. Rendleman suspects Ms. McAlpin has a beauty shop in the building in her back yard. Ms. McAlpin had appeared before the Council at a prior meeting asking for permission to use the building as a beauty shop but was denied the special use permit. Mayor Absher told Ms. Rendleman he was aware of the situation and had asked one of the Code Officers to visit her. He told Ms. Rendleman Ms. McAlpin was not cited by the Code Officer. Mayor Absher told Ms. Rendleman he believes there are many home-based businesses operating around town. Commissioner Barwick stated he is not in favor of a separate building being used for a business in a residential area. He believes cutting hair in someone's home is a different issue. Commissioner Patton stated the City needs a master plan for zoning for future planning. He believes this issue requires more thought. Commissioner Webb asked if there were any negative issues from this situation. Ms. Rendleman replied parking is currently the only negative issue.

Marion resident Jimmy Johnson addressed the Council to express his concern for election fraud.

Joe Hershey, a 37-year resident of Marion addressed the Council regarding internet service providers available to residents of Gateway Road. Mr. Hershey told the Council Futiva services neighbors all around the Gateway Road area but is not available to residents living on Gateway Road. He said there are 17 homes on that street and 10 are interested in having Futiva internet. He contacted Futiva and was told they are concentrating on rural areas now because they received some grant funds for those projects. He also contacted Clearwave and was told they do not provide residential internet service in Marion. They only provide internet service to commercial customers. Mayor Absher explained to Mr. Hershey that Clearwave was welcome to provide internet service to Marion residents and told Mr. Hershey City officials had met with Clearwave regarding this matter. He said Clearwave was not willing to cooperate with the City on providing resources to help with utility locates, etc. Mayor Absher explained the City does not have adequate resources to perform the utility locates necessary for five crews of fiber installers at the pace Clearwave was proposing to work. Mayor Absher also told Mr. Hershey Frontier Communications is currently installing fiber internet in locations all around Marion. They have proposed to have 100 percent internet coverage in Marion when they are finished.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Patton 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

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

Commissioner Patton told the Council he attended the Zoning Board meeting where the proposed zoning changes to the parcels on 5th Street were discussed. His suggestion to residents appearing before Zoning Board is to present as much information as possible. He thinks sometimes assumptions are being made and that issues should not be voted on based on assumptions.

Mayor Absher made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's approval of a zoning change (Ordinance 3815) at 102 N 5th St. PIN# 06-14-450-023, 104 N 5th St. PIN# 06-14-450-036 and N 5th St. PIN# 06-14-450-037 from R-2 General Family Residential to C-1 General Commercial to extend business parking lot (Smothers). Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Patton told the Council he does not believe enough information is provided for Mr. Franks' request to rezone parcels from C-1 General Commercial to R-2 General Family Residential. He is requesting seven lots to be rezoned to build twelve homes on those lots. Commissioner Patton thinks the density is too much and there wasn't a good plan presented to the Zoning Board to address density issues. He is not opposed to the idea of building the homes, but he thinks the Council needs more information. He doesn't think the lot sizes will accommodate the homes and they will be too crowded.

Mayor Absher made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's approval of a zoning change (Ordinance 3816) at Parcel Numbers 06-24-228-003, 06-24-228-002, 06-24-234-018, 06-24-234-016, 06-24-234-014, and 06-24-228-001 from C1 General Commercial to R2 General Family Residential to build 1200-1300 sq. ft. homes (Franks). Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Patton told the Council the business requesting the Special Use Permit to do therapeutic and medical massage at 900 West White Street has been in business there for at least ten years.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's approval of a Special Use Permit to do therapeutic and medical massage in a R-2 General Family Residential zone at 900 W White St., Parcel# 06-13-407-006 (Wharton). Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Patton made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's approval of a Variance at 1502 Hazeltine Ct. Parcel# 06-11-151-006 to place a black 6' ornamental fence in a portion of the front yard 6-8' over the property line (Smith). 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

Commissioner Patton asked how the sale of the property to Bryce Parks would affect the surrounding property. He asked if the sale would make the surrounding property less desirable. Mayor Absher said he doesn't think it will make the surrounding property less desirable.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve sale of property to Bryce Parks, Part of PINs 11-36-100-011, 11-36-100-011, 11-36-100- 011, 11-38-100-007, 11-36-300-009, 11-36-300-002, and 11-36-300-013 for \$2,250 per acre. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained the Local Public Agency Amendment #1 is for the intersection of Williamson County Parkway and 17th Street that is being realigned. The amendment is due to increased costs of material and labor due to inflation. Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips told the Council the prices increased on parts for the traffic boxes causing the project costs to increase. The City is obligated to pay ten percent of the increased costs. Mayor Absher asked when the project would be finished. Doug told him they are waiting on the parts to proceed on the project.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve IDOT Local Public Agency Amendment #1 for Williamson County Parkway at 17th Street Project. 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 3817 a Residential TIF II Redevelopment Agreement with West End Rentals, LLC. Commissioner Barwick 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 3818 a Residential TIF Redevelopment Agreement with JMB Development, LLC. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve a collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police effective retroactive to May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2025. Mayor Absher seconded the motion.

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

STREET DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Webb told the Council the original estimate from Clarida and Ziegler Engineering for the asphalt overlay program was \$1.15 million. The City based the budget on this amount. The low bid received was \$1,543,467. The bid was higher due to increased costs. Superintendent Doug Phillips prioritized the streets that needed paving most and cut some streets out totaling \$285,574.96. This left the low bid at \$1,257,892.04. There were some streets that can be paid from TIF funds totaling \$142,893. Those were pulled out of the bid. Bids for the project were received as follows:

Samron Midwest	\$1,543,467.00
ET Simonds	\$1,568,860.00
Southern Illinois Asphalt	\$2,180,631.85

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the low bid to Samron for the annual street overlay program for \$1,257,892.04. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Mayor Absher told the Council the City has the option to renew the line of credit with Banterra Bank. He said it is a very good interest rate at prime less 1.75 percent. This is a rate of approximately three percent and is probably the cheapest rate to borrow money. He said this could be used for an emergency or if a purchase came up the City needed to make. This isn't used frequently, but by renewing, is available if needed.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve the renewal of the \$5 million line of credit with Banterra Bank, under the original terms. Mayor Absher seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained the process for evaluating the applications for the non-profit organization grants funded with ARPA funds. The Council approved \$200,000 in ARPA funds to be allocated for the grants. Commissioners Patton and Barwick, local CPA and Rotary President Wayne Tate and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Karen Mullins sat on the scoring committee. Cody said sixteen grant applications were received. Eleven applications were funded for a total of \$192,500. The following entities received \$20,000 grants: First Presbyterian Church, SI Coalition for the Homeless, American Legion, Man Tra Con, Marion Professional Firefighters, Ambleside of Marion, Finding Forever Animal Rescue, and Caring Counseling Ministries. Kozy Kids/Marion Elks received \$17,500. Zion United Church of Christ received \$10,000. Pregnancy Matters received \$5,000.

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Mayor Absher made a motion to approve \$192,500 in ARPA Non-Profit grants. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Barwick had nothing to report.

Mayor Absher reported Club 60 served 5,740 meals in May and June. They also raised \$2,017 in donations and fundraisers in May and June. New programs have been added at Club 60 including a Single Senior Mix and Mingle, weekly painting and sketching class and monthly cooking classes and billiards tournaments. Every Tuesday, they hold a tech Tuesday class so seniors can get help with the smart phones and other devices. The Farmer's Market is held every Wednesday and Saturday morning in the parking lot through November. Club 60 has been nominated for a Governor's Hometown Award for the second consecutive year.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the last meeting. He reported the Otis Street Watermain project is complete. He announced the Elks would be holding their Fourth of July fireworks this weekend and the KC's will have a four-day celebration starting Friday night with a carnival, food, music, and fireworks each night. The final fireworks display on Monday, July 4th will be the largest show of that event. Connect 360 is having a Motown Party July 30th at the Pavilion from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Tonight's trivia questions and answers were as follows:

When was the first electric automobile invented? 1890

When was the first water meter installed in the US? 1850

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department crews have been cleaning the creek on Laura Lane from Hendrickson Street toward the high school. They have also been working on the sidewalk on Boyton Street and are almost to the railroad track. They have reinstalled a storm sewer in Morningside. They have been working on levy issues near Pike's Hunting Club. Crews continue to clean up around town. He also reported the Cemetery crews have been hard at work and have the Cemeteries looking good.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no miscellaneous items to come before Council this evening.

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

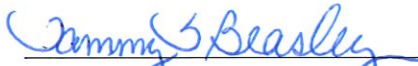
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:54 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk