

August 8, 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 Police Chief David Fitts.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Police Chief David Fitts told the Council on May 19, 2022 dispatch received a 911 call reporting a young child having trouble or not breathing. Officer Sam Ward responded to the call. When he arrived, the young girl was not breathing and had no pulse. He performed CPR and brought her back to life. She was transported to Heartland Regional Medical Center. Chief Fitts introduced Mika Dotson to the Council and audience. He reported that Mika's mother said she is doing very well. Chief Fitts told the Council Officer Ward has been recognized by the Police Department and he was recognized by WSIL TV 3 as an unsung hero. Chief Fitts introduced Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Awards Committee Chair Jerry Lee. Mr. Lee thanked the Council for allowing the award presentation. He explained the FOP recognizes all officers submitted to them for valor and life saving service. He told them he was proud to be in attendance this evening to make the presentation to Officer Ward. He presented Officer Ward with an award and medal.

Officer Ward told the Council he was proud to receive the award but knowing that he was able to save Mika's life due to the training he has received is his award. He thanked everyone.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mayor Absher told the Council the first four items are Redevelopment Agreements for Residential TIF I or II. He said properties in these areas are starting to be rehabilitated.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3827 a Residential TIF II Redevelopment Agreement with Brynnlayne Properties, LLC (1204 West Hendrickson). Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

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Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3828 a Residential TIF II Redevelopment Agreement with Brynnlayne Properties, LLC (1404 West Prairie).

Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve Ordinance 3829 a Residential TIF I Redevelopment Agreement with Prairie Creek Development, LLC (703 South Madison).

Commissioner Patton 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 approve Ordinance 3830 a Residential TIF I Redevelopment Agreement with South Market Homes, LLC (704 S. Market). Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3831 an Economic Incentive Agreement with Stearns & Stearns Properties, LLC. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the purchase of 1216 Midway Court, PIN 06-24-327-040. Commissioner Barwick 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 approve the purchase of 1217 Midway Court, PIN 06-24-328-016. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher said the City has two pending property purchases in this general area of Midway, Concord, and Hendrickson Streets. He said that is winding down unless someone presents a property they are wanting to sell.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve the Engineering Agreement with Farley Engineering for the Delta Regional Authority grant to fund the Sioux Drive Extension Project. 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 Chief Fitts to hire Larry Fones as a school security officer at the agreed upon pay rate between Marion Unit 2 schools and the City of Marion. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Police Chief David Fitts told the Council Mr. Fones is currently employed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He will retire from there in September and begin working as a school security officer in October. He is eager to begin his work with the schools.

Mayor Absher told the Council and audience he, Commissioner Barwick and Chief of Staff Cody Moake observed the active shooter scenario training at Marion High School. He said it was very impressive and very sobering to watch. He said he thought it was outstanding and he appreciated everyone's professionalism and all the work that went into organizing the training. Chief Fitts said Officer Chris Fozzard, Detective Chris Rammage and Firefighter Ben Wilson did an outstanding job coordinating the training. He said they spent numerous hours preparing, instructing, teaching, and planning and they did a great job. He also thanked Chief Jerry Odum and the Lake of Egypt Fire Department for their participation. Commissioner Barwick said this is one of the first trainings of this type that has involved the Police Department, Fire Department, EMS, United Ambulance Service, and the School Security Officers. Commissioner Barwick said the coordination between all involved was fantastic. Commissioner Barwick said he hopes this training is never needed but feels the City has done their due diligence in case it is needed.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the donation of two decommissioned squad cars to the Mobile Training Unit 15 and SIU for use in the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course for Law Enforcement. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Chief Fitts said the Mobile Training Unit is a state funded organization that trains law enforcement agencies for free. They have partnered with SIU to bring back the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course. They are looking for vehicles for the course. Chief Fitts said the Police Department has two vehicles that he would not feel safe putting back on the streets for everyday patrol. They would be perfect for this situation.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake told the Council the City's insurance carrier indicated the insurance policies for property, liability and work comp insurance will need to be renewed prior to January 1, 2023. He explained if the City renews early, the rate will be locked in for two years. The rate increase is three and a half percent. Cody does not think the City can get a better rate on the open market. He reported there have been several work comp claims over the last two years. Mayor Absher commented he thinks the City has a great relationship with the City's insurance carrier, Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the insurance renewal with IML-RMA. 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 REPORTS

Commissioner Patton reported the Marion Colt League team won the championship game of the Colt World Series tournament. He congratulated the team members and coaches. He thanked all teams for tremendous sportsmanship and dedication to the game. He reported attendance was just short of 6,500 for the tournament. He said attendance was very good compared to past years. Last year's total attendance was surpassed on night two of this year's tournament. He thanked Black Diamond Harley-Davidson, Rodney Cabaness and Shad Zimbardo; Steve Miller with PONY Baseball; Dave Cost with Marion Stadium, LLC, and all his team; Cody Moake; Rachel Stroud and the Swinford Media team and the planning committee.

Commissioner Barwick read the Fire Department, Police Department and Narcotics Unit reports for July. He reported 2,000 dispatched calls; 2,006 911 calls; 6,782 non-emergency calls and 344 ambulance calls during the month of July.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since last meeting. He gave kudos to the crews constructing the new water tower on the east side of town. He reported work is progressing on the square around the clock tower. He reminded everyone school starts on Wednesday.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department is working on the storm box by the Eye Center on Scottsboro Road. They are working on drainage issues near the soccer fields and on Fozzard and Chestnut Streets. They also continue the striping program and cleanup around town. The Cemetery Department had 16 burials during July but sold no lots.

MISCELLANEOUS

Police Chief David Fitts announced the Spooktacular will be held Friday October 29 at Rent One Park.

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:10 PM

Mayor Absher made a motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)) and a property matter (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)). Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

7:32 P.M.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

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

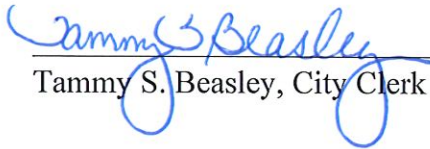
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk