

December 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 Mayor Absher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments this evening.

Police Chief David Fitts told the Council this is the time of year he enjoys because he gets to recognize one dispatcher and one officer for the work they have done all year.

Chief Fitts told the Council and audience the Dispatcher of the Year is a Dispatch Supervisor and has been since the supervisor positions were created. This person is also a telecommunications trainer and one of the most dependable dispatchers he has been around. He announced the 2022 Dispatcher of the Year is Justin Wing.

Chief Fitts told the Council and audience the Officer of the Year is part of a specialized unit within the Police Department. This officer is either directly responsible or partially responsible for the following: issued 202 citations this year; opened 195 cases; answered 848 calls for service; made 454 traffic stops; made 596 arrests; seized 250 pounds of illegal cannabis; seized 946.1 grams of methamphetamine; seized 2,115 grams of cocaine and controlled substances combined; and made at least 66 controlled illegal drug purchases. This person used zero sick days during the year. He presented the 2022 Officer of the Year award to Sergeant Jessie Thompson.

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, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

NEW BUSINESS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of Commissioner Barwick and Chief Fitts to hire Jared Blaylock to fill the open dispatch position at the Probationary 1 rate per the collective bargaining agreement with Mr. Blaylock's start date set for January 4, 2023. 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 introduced Mr. Blaylock to the Council and audience. He said Mr. Blaylock is currently working for the Williamson County Fire Protection District. He

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congratulated Mr. Blaylock and welcomed him to the Marion Police Department. Mr. Blaylock said he was honored and humbled. Chief Fitts introduced him to the Council.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher asked City Engineer Brian Ziegler to explain agenda item 6A. Brian told the Council Horner & Shifrin is going to purchase Clarida & Ziegler Engineering. Steve Donahue, a Marion native, is the President of Horner & Shifrin. Brian said they have several offices, including one in St. Louis, O'Fallon, and Poplar Bluff. Brian told the Council the local office will be the same and will be led by him. He explained with the purchase he will have access to additional staff and other capabilities. The employees will be able to participate in the company's employee stock ownership plan which gives them stability for the future. He said the name will change on future contracts and invoices, but the city will see no difference in service. The item on the agenda tonight is the city's consent to assign the current signed contracts. Mayor Absher said this assignment ensures the city will not pull any of the current contracts. Brian explained there will be no pause in work. Everything will continue to move forward. Mayor Absher congratulated Brian.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the Clarida & Ziegler Consent to Contract Assignments. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher asked Chief of Staff Cody Moake to explain agenda item 6B. Cody told the Council the mechanical engineers are recommending two more sump pumps be installed in the basement at the new city hall building. Cody explained the new city hall can operate without them, but it is easier and cheaper to install them now. One pump is in the storage room area and the other is next to the elevator pit on the Western Auto building side. He said installing these additional pumps should take care of any water issues and keep the basement dry. They will discharge into the storm sewer by Print Avenue.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve change order 27 to the Marion City Hall project adding additional sump pumps in the basement. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained agenda item 6C contemplates the city applying for a set of grants. He asked Economic Development and Municipal Planning Director Glenn Clarida to explain this to the Council and audience. Glenn said there is a proposed road that will run from Skyline Drive east then south to connect to Sioux Drive. This road will access the camping area and test tracks for the ATV's. There is a grant available through IDOT that would provide a maximum \$2 million. When he checked with IDOT, \$8 million of those funds was unallocated. There is also a grant available through the Delta Regional Authority in the amount of \$1.6 million. Delta Regional Authority needs a letter of commitment from the city for the local match portion of

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funding. The city's portion, \$500,000, will come from the project fund. Additional funds for the project will be provided by the County as well as the project developers. Glenn explained the high costs for the project are due to the road being built in the strip cut. Glenn said a decision to commit the funds should be made in 30 to 45 days.

Mayor Absher made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-23 authorizing a local match from the Project Fund for a DRA grant to build a road north of the Pavilion. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department has been working on snow removal. He gave a shout out to the crews for the many extra hours they have worked. He said they have also been replacing signs, cleaning ditches and demolishing houses. He reported the Cemetery Department has also helped with snow removal. They have had 171 burials so far for 2022. He said IT Intern Robbie has done a great job adding photos and obituaries to the GIS.

Commissioner Patton reported the Treasurer's office has tested the new software. They will work on making the transition to the new program.

Commissioner Barwick reported the Fire Department has responded to several calls due to extension cords. He reminded everyone to use larger cords if they are plugged in to space heaters. He told everyone the Police Department will have extra patrols during New Year's Eve. He asked everyone to please not drink and drive.

Commissioner Stoecklin reported the Water Department has been busy fixing water main breaks. He asked what year the city first used a computerized water billing system. He told the Council the first computerized water billing system was installed December 23, 1975. Prior to that all water billing was done by hand. He told everyone to be safe and have a great new year.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Commissioner Webb 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.

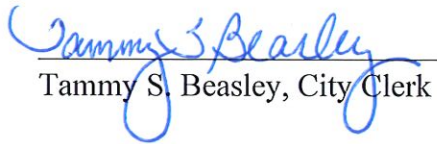
Meeting Adjourned at 6:03 P.M.

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Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk