

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 14, 2014
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on January 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Emerson Hunt and Joseph Frazier were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones, and Attorney Kenneth Davis.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Davis welcomed citizens, guests and the press. (Hometown TV and the Star/Enterprise newspaper)

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting on December 10, 2013, special meeting on December 16, 2013 and special meeting on December 23, 2013, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Mayor Davis presented the Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award to the City of Marion Sanitation Department and the City of Marion Street Department for their outstanding efforts in making Marion even more beautiful during the Christmas season. Sanitation Supervisor Winky Fore and Street Supervisor Ronnie Sanders were present to accept the awards on behalf of their departments.

City Clerk Pam Jones read the Resolution of Appreciation presented by Mayor Davis and City Council to Mrs. Judy Johnson, who recently retired after 16 years of service as the Executive

Director of the Marion Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Davis thanked Mrs. Johnson for her honorable and dedicated service, and also for her love of the City of Marion.

Dr. Paul DeMarco, co-chair of the City's Diversity Committee, spoke on the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. March scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2014 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the 1st United Methodist Church and ending at the Door of Hope Christian Church, and stated that this was not a march against something, but a march to unite the City. Everyone is invited to participate in the march and also to attend the Diversity Committee meetings. Mayor Davis thanked Dr. DeMarco and the Diversity Committee for their hard work.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ammons reported that the Grice's pool project is now completed. We are waiting on approval from the County to move forward with the Boys & Girls Club roof at Grice's. When the roof is completed, we will report back to Council what (money) is left. The two gymnasiums are scheduled to go out for bid in March and should be ready in time for basketball season. Mayor Davis announced that Mr. Kent Mason from Mullins has been hired as the new Recreation Director, as Mr. Russ Smith has resigned from that position Ms. Heather Evans from the Marion Police Department was named *December Employee of the Month* and presented with a gift certificate.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Kenneth Davis reported that a Land Use Ordinance would be presented in the next month or so.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Davis commented that the department reports were included in Council's packets each month. Mayor Davis asked for any comments from Department Heads or committee members. Captain Cindy Barr thanked the citizens for their continued support of the Police Department. Mayor Davis stated that he has had many positive comments regarding the Police Department and they are doing a great job. Mr. Winky Fore commented that The Sanitation Department was on track for getting rid of all the leaves, a truck went down today, and that the town is looking good. Mr. Ronnie Sanders commented that the Street Department was still taking down Christmas decorations and his men were working diligently. Judge Patricia Speth stated that she and Court Clerk Heather Evans would be attending a Judicial Clerk Seminar in February. Mrs. Mary Eaddy of the Citizen's Advisory Committee commented that the committee's meeting date had been changed to the 1st Monday each month and that more members were needed. Mr. Al Blake, HMRA Executive Director of HMRA reminded that Rise and Shine would be held Wednesday, February 5 at 8:30 a.m. at the Marion County Arts Complex. He also reminded that the Historic Marion Runfest and Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off would be held on Saturday, February 22 and he is working with the downtown merchants on a Valentine's promotion. Mayor Davis commented that these events would be a part of General Francis Marion Day and suggested that non-profit organizations contact Mr. Steve Pool for details regarding fund raising by selling tickets for the chili cook-off. Also, our Clerk will have forms available.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilman Emerson Hunt wished everyone a Happy New Year and hopes that 2014 will be a more prosperous year for our community.

Councilwoman Odessa Gregg thanked the City employees for the wonderful job they are doing.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson commented that our Recreation Department is doing a good job with the basketball program and there are a lot of hard working and dedicated people working with this program.

Councilman Joseph Frazier wished everyone a Happy New Year and is looking forward to doing a better job this year than has been done in previous years. Still has concerns about the speed limit sign for Dunlop and McEachern Heights not yet being installed by the state.

Councilman Michael Baker had no comment at this time.

Mayor Bobby Davis expressed condolences to City Clerk Pam Jones at the loss of her father, retired City Administrator and Fire Chief Bill Jones, and thanked her for the "Coats for Kids" project which she coordinated for our school children. Over 200 coats were distributed to Easterling, Johnakin and another group in need. Mayor Davis thanked Ms. Jones and also Mrs. Vickie Nichols for helping raise funds for the food boxes which were distributed before Christmas. We were able to meet the needs of the same number of families as last year. Mayor Davis thanked the Police and Fire Departments for delivering the boxes and also thanked everyone who contributed to this program. Mayor Davis commented that Marion has some great people here and we love them for their generosity toward others who may be less fortunate. The Town Hall meeting will be held Tuesday, January 21 at the Opera House at 6:00 p.m. and Mr. Al Blake and Mrs. Cindy Rogers will give a brief presentation of their positions and what they plan to do this coming year. They will also appear on our Swamp Fox Country TV show. The Boys & Girls Club Agreement is up next month and some citizens would like to have a public forum. Mayor Davis will set a public meeting before the regular Council meeting in February to allow the public to make remarks in reference to the Boys & Girls Club. There will be a Mayor's meeting for all Marion County Mayors on February 10 and Mayor Davis asks that he be told of any concerns our residents may have for the Mayors and he will present the responses at the next meeting. Mayor Davis will be attending MASC classes on February 4 and Legislative Day on

February 5, in Columbia. Councilman Joseph Frazier thanked Mayor Davis for providing food and shelter for the homeless during the cold weather. Councilman Frazier made a motion to present IGA with a plaque at the next meeting in appreciation for their service to the City, as they have on numerous occasions provided food and reduced food prices so that we can help our residents. Mayor Davis questioned if we could move forward with the motion as it was not on the agenda. Attorney Davis responded that it arose from the Agenda (Districts and City Update from Council and Mayor) and it will be in order to move forward. Councilwoman Odessa Gregg seconded the motion; motion carried. Mayor Davis commented that the IGA had always responded to the City's requests to help provide for our residents and also thanks to Dr. Xavier at the rice plant for providing rice for all of the food boxes during Christmas. There are so many who have done so much for us and people have been great in helping us. When Tonya Brown (WPDE-TV15) reported on the warming centers, our residents came to the fire station to donate food for those in need. Mayor Davis expressed his love for the citizens of Marion and hopes we will continue helping each other.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to go into Executive Session to get legal advice from the City Attorney, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried. Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action had been taken.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to enter open session, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped January 14, 2014