

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
& REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, July 9 2013

PUBLIC HEARING - 6:25 p.m. - for 2nd reading on the following Ordinances:

1. ***ORDINANCE 13-05, AN ORDINANCE TO SET RATES FOR SANITATION SERVICES***

2. ***ORDINANCE 13-06, AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES BY RECEIVING SEALED BIDS, SUBJECT TO THE CITY'S POWER TO REJECT ALL BIDS***

3. ***ORDINANCE 13-07, (AMENDING ORDINANCE 10-02) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 6; HEALTH and SANITATION SECTION 6-1009.1 through 6-1009.6; WEEDS AND VEGETATION***

Mayor Bobby L. Davis called the Public Hearing to order and asked if anyone had questions or comments on the referenced Ordinances. With no questions being asked, Mayor Davis closed the Public Hearing.

REGULAR MEETING - 6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on July 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg and Emerson Hunt were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones and Attorney Robert Lee.

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

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting on June 11, 2013, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Mayor Davis presented and read a *Letter of Appreciation* to Mr. Frank Jones for his service to the community and help in securing housing grants for residents in Marion County, including 39 in the City of Marion.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to allow HMRA to use an area alongside the Hike-Bike trail (near fountain) as a temporary location for the Farmer's Market, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson; motion carried.

After some discussion among Council regarding giving PDRTA additional funding in the amount of \$4,200 this year, Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to request a budget transfer of \$4,200 (one time) to the PDRTA fund that is currently \$2,800, for a total of \$7,000, *pending the decision of the Hospital Foundation to help fund PDRTA*. Should the Hospital Foundation not agree to fund PDRTA, the City will not give the additional \$4,200. Councilwoman Odessa Gregg seconded the motion; motion carried. Mayor Davis and Mr. Ammons will oversee this.

Mr. Chuck McNeil of PDRTA addressed Council on the importance and urgency in funding PDRTA for those residents who use PDRTA for transportation to their jobs at the beach.

At the request of Mayor Davis, Attorney Robert Lee reviewed the Ordinance regarding dissolving certain committees and stated that with a majority of Council votes these committees could be dissolved. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to dissolve the following committees as recommended by the City Attorney: Gas Examining Board and Plumbing Board, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept 2nd Reading on **ORDINANCE**

13-05, AN ORDINANCE TO SET RATES FOR SANITATION SERVICES, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept 2nd Reading on **ORDINANCE 13-06, AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES BY RECEIVING SEALED BIDS, SUBJECT TO THE CITY'S POWER TO REJECT ALL BIDS**, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept 2nd Reading on **ORDINANCE 13-07, (AMENDING ORDINANCE 10-02) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 6; HEALTH and SANITATION SECTION 6-1009.1 through 6-1009.6; WEEDS AND VEGETATION**, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ammons presented Council with a draft copy of the Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) for their REVIEW.

The biggest change noted is that we're contracted with the County and they have contracted with a private company for debris removal. Mayor Davis asked that Mr. Ammons coordinate with the County Emergency Director to come in and meet with all Council members regarding their roles and responsibilities in the plan.

Mr. Ammons updated Council on stormwater issues regarding the drainage issues in the City following the recent heavy rains, including the fact that Catfish Creek and Smith Swamp flooded (where our discharge goes) and that causes our system to go into a standstill. We have made DOT aware of problems on Bobby L. Davis Blvd., in the Phillips Street/Georgetown Street area and also on North Main Street.

In speaking with the contractor, everything is in order for renovations on Grice's pool to start next Monday or Tuesday.

Regarding the request for a meeting place for the District 4 Neighborhood Watch, Mr. Ammons recommended they use the meeting room at the Fire Department, as other City committees currently use this location. In regards to using the Opera House, Mr. Ammons commented that this is a rental facility. Mr. Ammons recommended allowing any Neighborhood Crime Watch Committee to use the Fire Department meeting room and coordinate their meeting dates with the Fire Department. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to allow District Watch groups to use the Fire Department for meeting purposes, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Mr. Ammons commented that the City is getting a large number of requests to close off streets for block parties. We are required to notify SCDOT ahead of time if the streets are going to be closed off. Mr. Ammons was told that there are appropriate times to block off the street, such as City sponsored festivals. The City assumes all liability if anything happens in the public way when a street is blocked off. Mr. Ammons would like for Council to consider some type of policy, whether for a special organized event or whatever. Attorney Lee suggested that the City set a fee that will underwrite the insurance that City currently has. Mayor Davis expressed concern over large inflatables being set up in the street and the liability the City would have should an emergency occur in the area where the streets are blocked off. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion that when citizens go to the Police Department to get a permit to block off a street or have a block party, they be instructed to go to the Recreation Department because the City has properties to use for events like that (Including Pop Dorsey Park, Grice's Center, Watsonia Center, Tollison Center, and CD Joyner) In addition to that Councilman Baker would like for Mr. Ammons and Attorney Lee come up with an Ordinance for the City and bring that back to Council for approval (Use of City property for short term, Ordinance for long term), seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Mr. Ammons commented that the City would be sending donations for disaster relief to the Oklahoma tornado victims via the Red Cross and that our residents had donated two truck loads of water and non-perishable food items.

Assistant Fire Chief Chris McKenzie was name *June Employee of the Month* and presented with a gift certificate.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

City Attorney Robert Lee had nothing to update at this time.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Davis commented that the Departmental Reports were sent out in Council's packets.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF CITY OFFICIALS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilman Michael Baker had no comment at this time.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Odessa Gregg had no comment at this time.

Councilman Emerson Hunt commented that he had been contacted by several people in his district regarding the crime rate in Marion. He expressed his concerns on the number of officers in the City and their salary. Mayor Davis commented that he, along with Mr. Ammons, Chief Gray, Captain Barr and the Training Officer, met and changed the policy from what had been done in past. We are seeking certified officers so that we can cut out past practices of sending people to the Academy who then come back here, use this as a training ground and then move on. We are working on a plan to adjust the pay scale of our officers.

Mayor Davis commented that the police officers would again be reporting the non-working street lights to Mr. Ammons's office so that Duke-Progress can be contacted and make repairs, which will help alleviate dark spaces where crimes are taking place. Mayor Davis further commented that a number of things are in the works to improve the Police Department. Mayor Davis stated that the Youth, Adult and Senior Councils each had their first meeting and were now preparing to move forward with their respective councils. Mayor Davis thanked all for their donations to the Relief Fund for the tornado victims. Mayor Davis announced that Dr. Paul DeMarco and Mrs. Irene Dais would co-chair the City's Diversity Committee and asked that those persons contacted by them be prepared to serve as a member of this

committee. Councilwoman Gregg and Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson will represent City Council, along with a cross-section of residents, business owners, leaders, and others. Mayor Davis reminded all that the Town Hall meeting would be held on Monday, July 29, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Marion Opera House and encouraged everyone to come and ask any questions at this time. Any Council Members who are able to be there that Monday are asked to attend. He stated that Ms. Pam Jones and Mr. Alan Ammons had worked closely with him to set this meeting up. He recognized the following committee members in attendance: Mr. Chuck Wiegert, HMRA; Mr. Leonard, District 4 Watch Committee; Mrs. Mary Eaddy, Citizen's Advisory Committee; Mr. Hezekiah Norman, Housing Authority; and Mrs. Doris Gerrald, Boys & Girls Club. Also present was Police Captain Cindy Barr who thanked the City for their continued support and asked residents to call 911 if they see anything suspicious, and they would respond as quickly as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Joe Frazier was present to follow up on the use of the Opera House for the District 4 Block Watch Committee. He would like the same consideration as the Men's Prayer Group to use the Opera House for the District 4 Block Watch. Mr. Frazier expressed his displeasure that the group would be allowed to use the Fire Station meeting room and not the Opera House. He asked Council to reconsider letting them use the Opera House instead of the Fire Station (as was previously approved by Council earlier in this meeting). Mayor Davis stated that the Council had spoken and the only way that can be reversed is for Council to withdraw the motion, withdraw the second and vote on something new. Councilman Baker stated the agenda cannot be changed to allow a vote; by law Council cannot go back and change the agenda. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson commented that this had already been voted on earlier in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped July 9, 2013