**MINUTES**

**Marion City Council SPECIAL MEETING**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL**

**MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014**

**6:00 p.m.**

A special meeting was held by City Council on Monday, April 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Ronald Atkinson, Michael Baker, Odessa Gregg, Joseph Frazier, Ralph Atkinson and Emerson Hunt were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown and City Clerk Pam Jones.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mayor Davis welcomed all guests and citizens. Naeem McFadden from the Star-Enterprise was present.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to allow Mr. Neal Zimmerman, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club, to continue use of Grice’s Center until June 7th, as requested. Councilman Joseph Frazier seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mayor Davis is in the process of putting together a community education/recreation program which will serve most of the kids in the Grice’s Center neighborhood during the summer, with the possibility of continuing through the school year. Mayor Davis needs Council’s authority to use Grice’s for the purpose of establishing a community education/recreation program for this summer and throughout the year if the program is successful. Mayor Davis stated this program would be free to all children in Marion. He also stated that the B&GC had been offered the Cheezem Building for free. Councilman Hunt offered further comments and concerns regarding his desire to keep the club at Grice’s and hopes that the B&G Club will be able to come back to our community. Councilman Hunt stated “You can blame who you want to blame, it took 4 votes to get them out, it took 4 votes to get them in and you (Mayor) were the deciding vote to get them out”. After continued applause from Dr. DeMarco when asked by the Mayor to stop, Mayor Davis brought the gavel down and called him out of order. Mayor Davis stated that we did not vote the B&GC out, of Grice’s; we tried to compromise with them as requested by Council. After further comments regarding the B&GC, Mayor Davis asked if Council had any comments. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson responded that this meeting was scheduled for the Budget Workshop and although the B&GC is important, that should be discussed at a regular meeting. Councilman Baker commented that Council was now on item no. 3 on the agenda and not item no. 2, which is when we voted to let them stay until June 7. We had already passed item no. 2, which was the B&GC. Councilman Frazier was in accordance with Councilman Baker, but offered a comment that he had been in favor of the club, but they refused to negotiate and that Grice’s belongs to the citizens of Marion for their use. Councilman Ralph Atkinson commented that the press came to him with questions and he gave them his honest opinion regarding the B&GC. Councilwoman Gregg had parents ask why children of city taxpayers were not allowed to use a city facility, when others in the county were and she hoped the B&GC would be willing to compromise (which they did not) on allowing local kids in. Councilman Hunt responded nothing is ever free, that someone is paying; let’s be honest and forthright with the community, sometimes we’re wrong and sometimes we’re right.

Mayor Davis’s final comment was we should first consider our boys and girls in the City of Marion, they are who we were elected to protect.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to enter Executive Session for the Workshop for the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 to discuss personnel matters regarding individual salaries, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action was taken. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to enter open session, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

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

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Mayor Bobby L. Davis City Clerk Pam Jones

 Taped April 28, 2014