

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2018; 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Gwendolyn Davis, City Clerk	Tony Flowers, Chief of Police
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	Jackie Yates, Fire Chief

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He encouraged citizens to come out to the monthly council meeting.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Denley Coughman gave the opening prayer, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8). He recognized the presence of Ms. Mary Batson who worked as the City Clerk for 25 years. He also welcomed Dr. and Mrs. Suggs.

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JULY 10, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 10, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

5. JULY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Ms. Ashley Allison in City Hall was named the July Employee of the Month. Mayor Brady thanked Ms. Allison for everything she does as the Bookkeeper with the City of Marion.

6. Bids on Sidewalk Replacement

Mayor Brady noted that the bids were for sidewalks that were damaged during Hurricane Matthew. Herrington Construction was the only company to submit a bid and the packet included the figures per 48 in and 60 in sidewalk. Mayor Brady mentioned that the city received C Fund money to cover the cost of the project.

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to approve the low bid from Herrington Construction for the bids on the sidewalk replacement. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Bids on Marshall Street Drainage Project

There have been several discussions in the past council meetings regarding the new development for the drainage on Marshall Street. The drain pipe that the city had collapsed because it had been there for years. Mayor Brady noted that the city went to the CTC Fund and was able to secure a grant for a

project at no cost to the City of Marion. He stated that Mr. Herrington was the low bidder for this project.

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson to approve the low bid from Herrington Construction for \$61,314.00, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Bids on Lease Purchase for New Fire Trucks

Mayor Brady stated that the purchase of a new fire truck had been discussed at previous council meetings and that the city received a \$50,000 grant. The truck should be delivered in the first couple of weeks in September. The city solicited bids for the finances to cover the purchase of the truck with Anderson Brothers Bank being the lowest bid of 4% for 7 years.

Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to accept the low bid of 4 % from Anderson Brothers Bank for the fire truck, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson. The motion passed unanimously.

9. GWSA- Quit Claim of Sewer Line Easement

Mayor Brady stated that end of Oliver Street, Grand Strand would like to do some sewer line work and make some upgrades to that side of town. They would like all entities involved to sign this quit claim to allow easement.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to approve the GWSA – Quit Claim of Sewer Line Easement, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Enterprise Fleet Management

Mayor Brady stated that at previous council meetings there were discussions on leasing new police department vehicles. Mr. Ammons introduced Mr. Chris Whiteside and Mr. Aaron Evans to the City Council.

Mr. Chris Whiteside and Mr. Aaron Evans work with customers and municipalities in South Carolina to help put together leasing and financing programs. They have been meeting with Mr. Ammons and Chief of Police Tony Flowers to discuss the vehicles used in the city. They are looking to put together a structure to replace old police cars. Mr. Evans helps to manage the program during budget time for the previous year and analyzing the cost to include maintenance cost, fuel cost and the total budget number. Mr. Whiteside stated they are looking to set up the vehicles on a 5 year lease and provided a list of projected cost.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to allow negotiation of terms for the agreement to begin to bring back to council, seconded by Ralph Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Approve Resolution – Dr. Suggs

Mayor Brady recognized Dr. James Suggs as being a physician for the City of Marion for 52 years and asked council for approval of a resolution at the next meeting for Dr. Suggs.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion that the council approve a resolution to honor Dr. Suggs for his many years of service to the citizens of Marion and Marion County, Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt proudly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Approve Resolution – Jackie Hulon

Mayor Brady recognized Mr. Jackie Hulon of Hulon Jewelers for their 50 years of service on Main St in Marion. August 18, 2018 marked their 50th year.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to approve the resolution for Mr. Hulon, seconded by Ralph Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

13. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

A. Update on City Parks

All of the playgrounds at the parks needed to be mulched again and they have started on them. This will cover some of the safety concerns. Signage has been installed with closing time information. There have been issues at Grice’s with parking behind the swimming pool and there will be more signage put up for that.

B. Update on Nuisance Properties

The owner of the Thomas Trailer Parks property has been officially notified that he has ten days to finish cleaning the debris. Mr. Ammons stated that the owner is now aware of the process. If he does not comply Mr. Ammons will have contractors to bid on the clean-up and bring back for council to approve.

Mr. Ammons stated that there are many nuisance properties all over town and the city is getting to them as they are notified. However, it will take some time because of the numerous properties that need attention.

13. CITY ATTORNEY’S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Jim Brogden stated that he was asked by Mayor Brady and Mr. Ammons to revise the nuisance letter that is sent out repeatedly. Citizens were waiting to receive the letter before they cut their grass. Now citizens have to keep

their property in compliance with the ordinance and the letter will only be sent out once a calendar year.

14. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Brady expressed his condolences to Councilman Joseph Frazier on the loss of his daughter from the City Council and the City of Marion. Councilman Joseph Frazier expressed his thanks and stated that he gave and acknowledgement to the City Clerk for the flowers.

Mayor Brady mentioned all of the grass that is being cut in the City and the City has started spraying for mosquitos. Mayor Brady acknowledged the National Night Out event and thanked Ms. Dolly Boyer and her staff for all they do with the crime watch. Mayor Brady mentioned the Relay for Life in July. He is grateful for all the areas they contribute to such as cancer awareness and free screenings. Mayor Brady encouraged the citizens to adopt a storm drain near or in front of their residence. He advised them to take a rake and remove the debris from the storm drain. Mayor Brady also encouraged the citizens to say something if they see suspicious activity or a car parked somewhere it shouldn't be, etc. He added that it only takes a phone call. Councilwoman Tassie Lewis added that a citizen can remain anonymous when making reports.

Councilman Michael Baker stated that Mr. Ammons took care of his concerns.

Councilman Joseph Frazier had nothing to report.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson had nothing to report.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis thanked Police Chief Tony Flowers and Assistant Fire Chief Jackie Yates for attending the "Back to School Rally". She was also thankful for the opportunity to be a judge at "Marion's Got Talent". She added that the fellowship was great and the children were full of energy. She acknowledged the beginning of the school year and admonished the children to be careful at the bus stops. She encouraged the children to look out for the drivers and the drivers to look out for the children.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt mentioned that he and Mr. Ammons met with some of the people on Marshall Street who promised to get some fencing so others will not be walking across backyards. He stated that it has been a problem and they are actively still working on trying to get it accomplished.

Councilman Joseph Frazier asked about the sidewalks coming out of the projects. Mr. Ammons stated that he will get with Mr. Coleman from SCDOT about the sidewalks on W Pickens St, since it is a state street.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis added that some of the parents were concerned about having some type of shelter with the rain. She stated that the Marion School District could not permit that.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt mentioned that there needs to be a safety guard for Easterling Primary School because they did not have one last year. There were concerns with the children being small and not having a safety guard. Mr. Ammons stated that they talked to SCDOT who reported that the 4 way stop was appropriate and nothing was needed. He added that they may need to have SCDOT come back

and look at it again. Mayor Brady stated that they can have Chief Tony Flowers to check the situation.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson to enter executive session to discuss the Personnel Matter – Police Department and Contractual Matters – City Buildings and Recreation Department, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion passed unanimously.

17. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to return to regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

18. AGR Behavior – Ryan Featherson

Mr. Featherson proposed an after school program to the City Council. The plan is to offer educational modules to include: reading comprehensive, mathematics and logic. There are also behavioral awareness program modules to include: anti-bullying, enhanced self-esteem, self-awareness and feelings temperature. He planned to hire certified teachers in the area. They would offer USDA meals and snacks for the children as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt asked if the organization was non-profit and Mr. Featherson said that it was not. Mayor Pro Tem Hunt stated that they mostly give their facilities to non-profits and they would have to discuss it with the lawyer. He was sure to add that he loved the educational concept.

Mayor Brady added that they would be in touch.

19. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson.

Mayor Ashley Brady

City Clerk Gwendolyn T. Davis
Taped: August 14, 2018