MARION CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019; 5:30 P.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter regarding Municipal Court Interviews. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Brady stated that no action was taken andthe meeting was adjourned.

MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019; 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator
Gwendolyn Davis, City Clerk
James Brogdon, City Attorney
Chief Tony Flowers
Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady led the prayer and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8). He also acknowledged Reverend Hemingway and his board.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING December 11, 2018 and SPECIAL MEETING December 11, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 11, 2018. The motion passed unanimously***.***

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker and seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on December 17, 2018. The motion passed unanimously***.***

DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mr. Richard Moody of the Marion Recreation Department was named December Employee of the Month. He is a faithful employee and good citizen in the City of Marion. Mayor Ashley Brady added that he was with the Sanitation Department before moving to the Recreation Department and has been there ever since. He thanked him for everything he does.

AWARD PRESENTATION – REVEREND HEMINGWAY

Mayor Brady presented Reverend Hemingway and his staff to the audience.
Reverend Hemingway introduced his board to Marion City Council and Mayor Brady. He stated that at the 19th Annual Women to Women Conference they honored outstanding agencies, businesses and organizations throughout Marion County. This year they decided to honor collective bodies of people who are doing not only an outstanding job in the City of Marion, but Marion County and surrounding areas. He thanked City Council for all they do in the City of Marion regardless of race, creed, color or background.

AUDIT REPORT- KENNETH COBB & COMPANY, P.C.

Mrs. Brenda Jackson from Kenneth Cobb & Company presented their Audit Report for the City of Marion. The City received a clean opinion which is the best that can be received. Mrs. Jackson thanked Council for the opportunity to serve as auditor for the past year and also thanked the staff for their hard work. She presented Council with a review of the audit report and encouraged Council to stop her at any point if there were questions. The City received an unqualified opinion, a clean opinion, which is the top opinion you can receive. She gave an overview of the City of Marion's budget and highlighted important areas. She stated that the General Fund Balance at Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018 was $5.3 million. (A copy of the audit is available at City Hall) After completing her presentation, Mayor Brady thanked Mrs. Jackson for the detailed report and commented that this was one of the best ones we have ever had.

1st Reading on Ordinance 19-01**, *An Ordinance to Adopt and Establish a Stormwater Utility Within the City of Marion***. Mayor Brady commented that the amounts set for residential and commercial customers, would be taken into consideration and the ordinance reviewed and any necessary changes made before the 2nd reading is presented to Council for approval. ***Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to adopt and establish a stormwater utility with the City of Marion, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt;*** motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Health Insurance Policy – Mr. Ammons advised on the Health Insurance Policy for retirees, future employees and adjustments to personnel policy. After an in-depth discussion with Council members, Mr. Ammons advised that he will bring back a proposal for Council to review at the next meeting.
- Miscellaneous – Mr. Ammons received a proposal from Green Bulb Lighting consultants, which Attorney Brogdon is reviewing.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Brogdon had nothing to report at this time. He did, however, offer a hearty "Go Tigers" in honor of Richard Skipper.

DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady commented that everyone is invited to the Dr. Martin Luther King Day Observance on January 21st at the Door of Hope Christian church. There is full slate of activities for the day, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Our loyal employees have taken down Christmas decorations and gotten everything cleaned up and low hanging tree limbs have been taken down. Herrington Construction has begun repairing sidewalks that were damaged by the hurricane. CTC funds are being used for this repair work. The equipment for the grinding and of trees and ground debris showed up at the landfill today and work should be completed in about 3 days. Mayor Brady commented that the equipment was very impressive and worth taking a look at. Rec basketball will be starting on January 12. There are 17 teams and over 170 players signed up. We are planning to start a volleyball league later this year and there is a lot of interest in the community. Please contact Alan, Mayor Brady or Ainsley at City Hall if you see a street light out. You will need the closest address and the pole number. Flyers were sent out to notify residents that white and brown goods will now be picked on Wednesday and Thursday. Also, tires and TV's left out by the curb are subject to a fine of $1,092.50 for littering. Notices will be left at those residences in order to allow them to properly dispose of those items. After some discussion with Mayor Pro-tem Hunt and Councilman Frazier, May Brady stated that fines would be imposed if someone was actually seen disposing of tires and TV's in the city limits.

Councilman Michael Baker inquired if bids were going out to get rid of the tree stumps all over town. Mr. Ammons responded that bids had been sent out.

Councilman Joseph Frazier inquired as to why the Public Comments were made at the end of the meeting, after the executive session. Mr. Ammons responded that was how it had always been done, but could be changed if Council so desired. Councilman Frazier and

Councilman Baker asked that they be moved so that those in attendance would hear the comments. Mayor Brady stated that would be done.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis thanked everyone who helped make the "Rise Above it All" coat drive a success. We are in the process of implementing a crime watch program for District 5, called CUAC (Citizens United Against Crime). This will be a proactive program to educate our citizens about crime watch and prevention. We can't stop crime, but we want to everything we can to reduce it. She thanked Councilman Frazier for inviting them to his crime watch program, which is already in effect. She also thanked Councilman Baker for wanting work in conjunction with Mr. Frazier in his program.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt wish all a Happy New Year and recognized Mr. Dawson and Ms. Georgette, who were in attendance. He also recognized Sheriff Brian Wallace and commended him on the outstanding job he is doing for Marion County. Councilman Hunt commented that he and Mayor Brady had discussed ways to help deter crime and decrease the accumulation of people in certain areas. Councilman Hunt yielded his remaining time to Ms. Georgette Washington, who thanked Councilwoman Lewis for offering her time and assistance with the crime watch program. Councilman Frazier clarified that it was not his crime watch, but was founded by Ervin Woodberry, with Dolly Boyer as president and the one who has carried it forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the Personnel Matter – Police Department and Personnel Matter – Municipal Court, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

Returning from executive session *Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson.* The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Brady stated that no action was taken in Executive Session. ***Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to extend an offer as Chief Municipal Judge of the City of Marion, to Lillie Ann Sanders. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis.*** Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt abstained from the vote due to his tie with the court system. The motion carried, 6 yes - 1 abstain. ***Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to extend on offer as Associate Judge of the City of Marion to Barbara Hopkins. Councilman Michael Baker offered a second.*** Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt also abstained from this vote. Motion carried 6 – yes, 1 abstain.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, ***Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson***. The motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Ashley Brady

Taped January 8, 2019
Transcribed by Pam Jones, Interim Clerk