MARION CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019; 6:30 P.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

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

City Administrator Alan Ammons
City Treasurer Patricia Brown
City Attorney James Brogdon
Police Chief Tony Flowers
Interim Clerk Pam Jones

Mr. Denley Caughman gave the prayer and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to approve the January 8, 2019 minutes, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. 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***.***

Mr. Ethan Brown of the Marion Fire Department was named ***January Employee of the Month.*** Mayor Ashley Brady thanked Ethan for always having a great attitude and doing a great job for the City. Mayor Brady presented Ethan with a gift certificate.

Sawyer Construction had the low bid on the Park Avenue Drainage project, but withdrew their bid. ***Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to award the Park Avenue Drainage project to Moody Construction, with a bid of $118,400. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker.*** The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to move 7."Repairs to the Vacuum Truck," after Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. The motion carried.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to set the Public Hearing for the Stormwater Maintenance Program on March 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., before the council meeting, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. The motion carried unanimously. Swearing in of the Municipal judges will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Council meeting.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to hold the Annual City Party on March 19, 2019, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to approve the sale of the GMC Firetruck, with the proceeds to be used to offset the cost of air packs at the Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The 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. The highlighted section of the handout is the portion to be changed and will only affect new employees. As of July 1, 2019, new employees must meet the requirements of the State Retirement Plan, known as the 90 rule. Current employees must have the last 15 years of continuous service with the City of Marion. The Marion Fire Department and the Marion Police Department have no

age requirements, but must have 25 years of service, the last 15 with the City of Marion. At that time the retired employee may convert his City insurance coverage to a Medicare Supplement policy through the City, as long as the City makes that coverage available. The City will pay for current employees insurance. The Health Insurance Policy will be presented as an Ordinance for Council's approval. ***Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the changes to the employees' health and life insurance policy as presented by the Administrator, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker.*** The motion carried unanimously. This will go into effect on July 1, 2019, for new employees.

- Hazard Mitigation – Mr. Ammons gave an overview of the Hazardous Mitigation Grant Projects. We are concerned about Catfish and Smith Swamp and we will follow the process and apply for mitigation money. We will work with the County to identify troubled areas and in applying for monies. The Corp of Engineers will lead this effort. The City will be applying for money to help with this project.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Brogdon had nothing to report at this time

DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady commented that he had sent letters to Senator Lindsey Graham and Congressman Tom Rice in regards to flood damages in the City of Marion from Hurricane Florence. A letter has been sent to the owner of Thomas Trailer Park regarding overgrown weeds and vegetation and that our Ordinance gives him 10 days to have this rectified. At the end of the 10 days we will get our guys to finish cleaning that property up. Mayor Brady asked that street light outages be reported. Location and pole number are needed so that we can contact Duke Energy to repair or replace. The Public Works guys have done an excellent job of edging and clearing sidewalks. There is a loud music and noise ordinance and 4 tickets were issued in the past month. Mayor Brady commented that he attended 2 Crime Watch meetings. Upon discovering the Durant Cemetery had become overgrown and neglected, Mayor Brady had city workers to clean up the grounds and more debris will be hauled off. A headstone with

the name Bostick 1814-1917 was found. Cleaned up tree stumps; bidded out 24 tree stumps with Mincey Tree Service having the low bid. Representative Lucas Atkinson and Senator Kent Williams will are trying to get money for the City, which will be earmarked for HMRA, for façade grants and projects. The Fire Department ladder truck is back in service. Police vehicles are expected to be ready in March, with Captain Smith's truck already in.

Councilman Michael Baker inquired if the City is picking up tires. Mr. Ammons responded that he will pick a day and coordinate with the landfill to pick up tires. Councilman Baker would like to set certain days and locations for fireworks. He would like to know what other municipalities are doing. Mr. Ammons will check into this and let him know.

Councilman Joseph Frazier commented that everything that he has complained about is now ok in his district. He has been riding around with Mr. Ammons to see what needs done.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson commented that the gravel truck needs a signs on both sides and that Dennis's truck needs the tailgate painted. Mayor Brady responded that the signs have been ordered for the gravel truck and that Dennis will be getting a new truck.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis commented that District 5 is completing their Crime Watch program and working with Councilman Baker. The VFW has a new home on Senator Gasque Road and the old jail property went back to the county.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt commented that he was glad to be here and on time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the Personnel Matter – Clerk Position, Personnel Matter – Municipal Court, Contractual

Matter – Energy Survey, and Contractual Matter – SCDOT Sale of Real Property. Councilman Ronald Atkinson seconded the motion. 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 Joseph Frazier.*** The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Brady stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion that the Mayor and Administrator receive applicants from with the City to fill the City Clerk position. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to allow Mayor and Administrator to look into the SCDOT Sale of Real Property on Senator Gasque Road, so that the proceeds, up to $51,000, can go into the repairs of our vacuum truck, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The motion was amended to authorize the Treasurer to make any necessary adjustments. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Mayor Ashley Brady

Taped February 12, 2019
Pam Jones, Interim Clerk