MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019; 6:00 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
Pam Jones, Interim City Clerk
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer
James Brogdon, City Attorney
Tony Flowers, Chief of Police

1. SWEARING IN OF MUNICIPAL JUDGES

2. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

3. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Leonard led the Opening Prayer, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

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

5. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2019

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 12, 2019. The motion carries unanimously.

6. FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Officer Derrick Ray of the Marion Police Department was named ***February Employee of the Month.*** Mayor Ashley Brady thanked Officer Derrick Ray for all that he does for the City and for doing a fantastic job. Mayor Brady presented Officer Derrick Ray with a gift certificate.

7. BACCHUS TRANSPORTATION

Bacchus Transportation was not present.

8. MR. MICHAEL MCLEAN- GREEN BULB LIGHTING

Mr. McLean gave a presentation representing Green Bulb Lighting. Green Bulb is an energy efficient company that goes in and show municipalities and businesses how to reduce their lighting bill. Mayor Brady added that he would like the local contractors to have the opportunity to bid on the projects and Mr. McLean agreed. Mayor Brady had a concern about the implementations be scheduled on our own schedule because the facilities are working facilities. Mr. McLean affirmed that the scheduling would not be an issue. Mayor moved to next item on agenda Green bulb to be discussed in the Executive Session.

9. ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Stormwater Maintenance/ Stormwater Maintenance fee

Mr. Ammons discussion included the Stormwater maintenance fee program as discussed in last month's meeting. He wants to recommend to the Council to

allow to put out for bids, to purchase and finance the use of the 23 year old grapple truck from previous bids for $235 thousand from the public hearing, and also a camera system for the grapple truck for $15 thousand. The request would be if council desires to finance it for $250 thousand and also for the bid out the specs identical to the specs of the used vehicle. ***Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to allow the Administrator and Mayor to put out for bids as well as to secure the $250 thousand, to include the truck as well as the camera, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker.*** The motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to put out a bid to purchase a truck identical to similar spec of the vehicle, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to finance the truck and the camera based on the financial backing on the trucking and camera system, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Stormwater Task Force

Mr. Ammons gave an overview of the Stormwater Task Force. Mr. Ammons is serving on that committee along with others from the county. Mr. Ammons stated that the biggest concern for the City of Marion now would be the Catfish and Smith Swamp. The Task Force are looking for smaller projects such as out flow and ditches instead of jumping on major projects. Mr. Ammons has given the Task Force three recommendations for the City first one was behind Grice's, the flow behind Grice's that runs to Strawberry St., also the outflow on Gregg St that runs behind the National Guard Armory, and the other one was the out

flow ditch on Rogers Rd. that flows back to Catfish. Those were the three priorities for the City. We hope that in April we will work in conjunction with the County, and SCDOT.

C. Miscellaneous - Recreation Center Update

Recreation Director Mr. Cliff Wilbanks commented that the Recreation Department had a great 2019 basketball season. We had five teams go to district and two teams to go to state. Out of all the playing we came home with the second state championship with our 12U Boys. They were undefeated and they worked very hard. Mayor Ashley Brady added that we would get together and plan something for a little celebration like last year.

10. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Brogdon had an update relating to the Municipal Judge Positon. Attorney Brogdon stated that it has come to our attention that our ordinance has written states that the Judge should hold Office period for one year and or until a successor is elected or qualified. That is contrary to South Carolina's statute so Attorney Brogdon thinks that we should amend the current ordinance. Attorney stated that State statute requires that whenever a municipal Judge is appointed by council it's for a period not less than two years not more than four years. So we'd have to start setting terms to that. However in the meantime he states that council needs to define and make a motion and have it approved by council as to how long Judge Sanders needs to sit for.

11. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Brady stated that last Monday through last week the City did the final clean up at Thomas Trailer Park and got that area looking much better. He mentioned that the owner of the property has been contacted and we will be

sending him a bill for the re-clean up at the Thomas Trailer Park property. He added that we were working over on Gregg and Arch St. and we had several drainage ditches that were overgrown. Mayor stated that the City has resurrected that catch basin, and hopefully that will help the water issues we have in that area. Mayor Brady stated that previously the City have leased some new Police cars through Enterprise and Captain Smith has his new truck in, and Dennis has his truck in as well. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that CD Joyner flooded after Hurricane Florence. Thank goodness we had insurance he said. Our insurance paid for it but the front portion of the stage flooded about 16 inches. Insurance also paid for new carpeting to be put in and that was completed last month. Also doing some painting where we are repairing some leaks. Mayor stated that we will be looking at a CBDG grant coming up in the fall of this year concerning Gregg St. Arch St. HE mentioned that there is about a half a dozen or eight houses that are in such a poor state and condition that the only hope for them is that they be torn down, but because of the DHEC regulations we need to go through the CBDG grant to get the funding's to do the inspections on these properties, the abatement if there is any asbestos in it. Mayor also stated that we will be working on the concentrated area so we will be working on the CBDG grants in those areas. Mayor Brady added that we did have one Citizen that identified that he'd like for it to be torn down. Mayor informed us that the home owner did his own asbestos inspection, but the way that works he was able to abate the asbestos himself. A homeowner can do it but the City cannot do it. They have the asbestos permits and everything is approved with DHEC. So we are waiting for one more document from DHEC, and we can help this gentlemen tear down his home.

Councilman Michael Baker stated that Mr. Ammons and I went back and forth all over the district. "Alan one those homes for tax reasons it belongs to the City

now. The one on Euclid. So that particular one will be needing someone to come in for asbestos?" Mayor Brady stated that that's why we need the CBDG grants are needed.

Councilman Joseph Frazier commented that he is pretty well set. He stated that he was up at the county complaining about Gilchrist St., the trailer down there, they are trying to throw it back in the City's lap. Which doesn't make sense. Councilman Frazier states that the Attorney looked it up, and they are waiting on something but they are trying to get it done by June. Councilman Frazier stated that he doesn't care as long as it gets done. He stated that we need to work together to get it done.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson commented that he doesn't have anything except to say that Thomas Trailer Park really looks great.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis commented that she has an invitation here from her church from the Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church it is for a union with the Health Ministry. It is called the helping hands ministry. Linda Mahammad is here, and she thanks her for coming. Councilwoman Tassie states that this is going to be on the 23rd, and asking that you register by March 21st no later than the Thursday March 21st, and you can do so by calling the church 843-423-3291 or Linda Mahammad at 843-423-6587 so we look forward to having you at our breakfast. Also congratulations to our 12 and under on the competition on Saturday. Councilwoman States that she was a point guard and that it was a very close game.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt would like to tell everybody hello again. He states that he spoke with a couple of people. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt that Ms. Nichols he, and her daughter where really good friends. He also states that Ms. Moody taught school with his mother down at Terrell's Bay and Ms. Howard is his friend and has always been on his side, and finally Ms. Rogers was his second grade teacher. Mayor Pro Tem would also like to speak to his Pastor, and he states that he has been working with the kids for the past two years. Basketball, till this day he hasn't received one quarter. He states that he picks them up and he is a deliberate and focused individual. Just wanted to speak to Pastor Davis and thanks the public for coming out.

Councilman Frazier also added that he'd like to thank St. John and Mt. Pisgah to come out and that he wanted them to also see what was going on at the Council meeting. Councilman Frazier also states that he thanks Rev. Leonard for promoting and getting his membership to come out here. He states "just wait around because a decision will be made tonight, so you can wait around to tell the rest of the congregation."

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss four different matters the Personnel Matter – Clerk Position, three Contractual Matter – Solid Waste Agreement, Demolition Agreement, Green Bulb Lighting. Councilman Joseph Frazier seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

13. 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.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to hire Ainsley Sanders for our Clerk position. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson and motion carried Ainsley Sanders being promoted to new Clerk for the City of Marion.

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to offer to go along with Green Light bulb lighting with the exception of Tillman Park, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried unanimously.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

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Mayor Ashley Brady City Clerk

Interim Clerk Pam Jones
Taped: March 12, 2019