MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, July 9, 2019; 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

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
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer
Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director
James Brogdon, City Attorney
Tony Flowers, Chief of Police

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt asked Assistant Chief Jackie Yates to do the opening prayer, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2019 AND SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 18, 2019

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier, to approve both of the minutes. The motion carries unanimously.

5. JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt named the Employee Justin Hardee from the Marion Police Department. Pro Tem Hunt stated that Justin has been with us for three years and he is a great Officer and help the Citizens stay safe. Mayor Pro Tem Hunt thanked Justin Hardee for all he does for the City and for doing a great job. Pro Tem Hunt gave Hardee a token of appreciation.

6. POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Mr. Ammons stated that these are the policies that have been reviewed by the City attorney and also the municipal association in recommendation to the Chief to insert them into the Police department policy manual. ***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Joseph Frazier, to approve two policies.*** The motion carries.

7. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

Storm Water

Mr. Ammons stated that this month the stormwater maintenance will be on the water bill starting July 15. Mr. Ammons stated that a few things that have been started on July first. He stated that the ditch behind the houses on Bobby L. Davis that swings around and comes all the way to South Main they had encountered debris thrown in the ditches around the board of disabilities office and Public housing. Mr. Ammons also showed some pictures of how the ditches are looking

now understanding that there is still more work to be done. Mr. Ammons stated that they had encounter debris being thrown in the ditches around the Board of disabilities and public housing. Mr. Ammons stated that they spent about three days and probably will spend about three more days, however the rain came and kind of delayed the process. He stated that the ditch is in pretty good shape now the water is moving. Mr. Ammons also stated that there is still a lot of work to do. Mr. Ammons stated that a representative from company came and did a two day training concerning the Vacuum truck and camera with employees. Mr. Ammons stated that they went over on L Street and Montgomery Street that floods all the time, and presented pictures to Council about what he was talking about cleaning the line. He informed that they did hit a blockage about 200 feet in the line and stated that the next picture showed what they encountered. He also informed that the 100 foot tall pine tree roots have off set the pipe. He also mentioned that it's an advantage of the camera being able to identify the problem and not having to dig up the whole area. Mr. Ammons made the point that what would have happened in the past we would have contacted CTC and asked for money to replace 400 feet of drain pipe and now we are in a better situation and can handle that situation ourselves. Mr. Alan reiterated two days of training was taken and the camera system is excellent. He makes mention of the camera being able to take pictures and video and being able to readily identify the problem is a big help. Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that going back to this drainage on Bobby L. Davis parkway he wants to know if the plans are eventually going to be tile in, because it goes from behind the Police station all the way behind housing authority interjected Mr. Ammons. Mr. Ammons interjected that behind the Housing Authority has been piped years ago for safety purposes. Mr. Ammons added as you can see when we get to the houses on Bobby L. Davis the ditch is not but about a foot to a foot and a half deep; however, behind the Police department it's a

canal about 10 foot deep, and about 20 foot wide, and as it comes down it narrows down around the housing authority. Councilman stated that it was fenced at one time, he also asked do we have any plans and Mr. Ammons mentioned that we don't have a plan to pipe that part on Bobby L. Davis Blvd. Councilman Ralph asked about property behind Police Department being piped, Mr. Ammons stated that it is really not accessible. Councilman mentioned if we can get C-Funds to help do it, it might be a project. Councilman mentioned that about twenty years ago it was a canal and Mr. Ammons stated that the City cleaned it as well.

CTC-Update

Mr. Ammons stated that the CTC Project on Park Ave is under construction. He stated employee got started and then the rain got him behind, but he is working and are probably two weeks out on that project. Mr. Ammons stated that when employee gets finished we can also inspect the pipe before we pay, and that is something we couldn't do before. Councilman Ralph asked what is the deal on Park Street did it go all the way back to English Park. Mr. Ammons confirmed.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Baker wanted to know if Mr. Ammons has an update on Catfish. Mr. Ammons stated that the only thing that he had was that the Mayor reported last month that some money was some money available DNR had procreated and basically it was for working beaver dams from 576 to Wahee. Mr. Ammons stated that it wasn't for cleaning or removing debris. He also stated that nothing has changed since last month. Councilman Frazier had mentioned that he thought that they were going to work from 76 back up to the parkway? Mr. Ammons added that we had put in for funds to do that and he knows that the Mayor has met with and Councilman Baker also Congressman Rice on several occasions about the part getting cleaned in the City. Councilman Ralph mentioned that Lindsey Graham

came and looked all the way from Housing Authority to Smith Swamp and Catfish too but until they appropriate money we can't do anything. Mayor has sent both letters and Senator Tim Scott emphasized Mr. Ammons and he also stated that on Tree Day and the State Flood work commission was here they also talked to Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Senator Tom Rice and all of them were there and they were right on Catfish. Councilman Ronald mentioned they came when we were in our worst position.

8. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

City Attorney had nothing at the time.

9. MARILYN TOMLIN WOODBERRY

Ms. Marilyn stated that God has put on her heart to do this back to School for the Bethlehem Baptist Church, and she also said that she has two months to do it. Ms. Marilyn stated that when God gives you a job to do we need to do it. She also states that it's a back to school give away but its back to school with God. Ms. Marilyn stated that she is not just giving away supplies but the child has to come and hear about the steps the can take to have a successful year. She is a retired educator and stated that she is has seen all the bullying and all the other stuff. She is hoping that they will find something on this day on August 10th to take back into the schools with them, and say you know I heard this at Bethlehem Church and she is hoping that the City can in some way help with the supplies. Ms. Woodberry added that her sister and herself allowed forty eight students to come to the Church and provided them reading, math, and anything else they needed. She stated that she has had Councilman Hunt to come out Judge Dupree who is her Sister in Law who is the Judge in Latta come and talk to the children. She also stated that Proverbs 22 and 6 says to train up a child in the way that they should go and they will not depart. She stated that we are not giving the children anything

and she wants to give them something and she plans on saving as many as she can. She is requesting for all to come and talk to the children, and ask what they can do as Council for the children. Ms. Marilyn stated that if we don't take back our street the drug dealers and stuff going to introduce to the children something so we have to do something. She stated that whatever can be done to help this project will be appreciated. She said that two weeks ago she had cataract surgery and someone took it upon themselves to run the children off and call the police on them and someone in the neighborhood removed the goal that the children we're playing with. She emphasized that a goal is going back up there and she says that she don't have no money but a goal is going back up. She also stated that she stood up in the church and said that if the children can't come to the church where can they go. Ms. Marilyn stated that a goal is going back up and if we know someone with a goal in their back yard that they are not using to let her know and she will find her a truck and she will come and get it. They can't go across the street to the center because they might get hit by a car, human trafficking is out here now and she stated that she don't want them exposed to that. She emphasized that if the children are comfortable in the parking lot playing ball let them play ball. She also emphasized that children are her passion and anything she can do to help them that is what she is going to do. Councilwoman Tassie stated that she has a basketball goal she is willing to donate.

10. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilman Michael Baker: Has nothing at this time. He stated that he and Mr. Ammons rode the district so they took care of it.

Councilman Joseph Frazier: Councilman Frazier stated that he noticed that no more of the letters will be sent out for cutting of the grass. Mr. Ammons confirmed that only one time notification. Councilman also stated that Thomas Trailer Park is

growing up and Blumenthal needs to be looked into. Mr. Ammons stated that since Councilman brought it up he talked to Mr. Harper about a month ago about Blumenthal around the fence on the outside and all and he stated the Mr. Harper said that he would have to check with legal Council because Mr. Harper said that it had been seized by the FBI or something like that and he was going to check before they went back on the property because it was in some kind of seizure. Mr. Ammons stated that he would check with him and see where it's at. Mr. Ammons said he talked to him because they were going to go in and get them to help us like they did last time but Mr. Ammons stated that he would check on that and let Councilman know something.

Council Frazier stated that a young lady came by the house yesterday and was trying to get some help with back to school program. Mr. Ammons stated that he would get with Mrs. Brown and see what we have and let all the Council Members know. Councilman Frazier stated that she wanted Grice's. Mr. Ammons stated that she was more interested in financial support.

Councilman Frazier stated that he was at the County Council meeting this morning and he hear from the Senator that they are renovating the museum and they are going to put a park back there and wanting to name it Clementa Pinckney after him and they have got a lot of funds for it from various companies to help them do this and they want us to name a street when they finish in honor of him. Councilman Frazier stated that Senator stated Senator said he had to be invited. Mr. Ammons interjected that Senator has an open invitation. Councilman Frazier stated that he would like Senator to come. Councilman Frazier emphasized that they are doing stuff that we don't know about and we are tax payers too. He also stated that he hadn't seen anything in the paper and he needed to let these Citizens know something about it.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson: Councilman Ronald Atkinson asked what is going on Godbold Street Carwash? Mr. Ammons stated that due to the type of construction they needed an engineer for the roof system we have them stopped. Mr. Ammons stressed that he had met with Mr. Jacobs and he hired an engineer out of Britton's Neck and hopefully in a little while they will be able to get back started.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson: Councilman Ralph Atkinson mentioned that all he has is that Councilman Frazier mentioned about County Council and had a meeting today and there was an announcement that SopakCo is going to make a twelve and a half million dollar investment to the County and move their headquarters to Mullins to his understanding, and create twenty five new jobs. Councilman also mentions that about a week or two ago an announcement was made that the spec building had been sold and a company was going to come and make a six and a half million. Mr. Ammons stated that it's actually the road rescue building and Bill Tech and make six and a half million dollar investment and create sixty –four jobs. Council Ralph stated that, that is some good information. He also stated that should create some jobs and some tax space. Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated it would maybe offer opportunity to buy homes, and increase folks going to grocery stores. Councilman stated that he thinks this is the first time in a long time we have got some good news, and we should applaud the economic development people for all their hard work within the County.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis: Councilwoman Tassie stated that in reference to Ms. Tomlin being here Councilwoman's hashtag has been "We are better together", and Councilwoman thanks Ms. Tomlin for coming and sharing her vision. Councilwoman Tassie also stated that there are a lot of concerns about the up grow

in District five that has already been discussed. She stated that Mr. Ammons and herself had been vigilant and as you can see they are on it. She wants to let the Citizens to know that there concerns are being heard and being addressed just ask for your patience.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt: Mayor Pro Tem Hunt stated that he would like to finish the meeting and state the Mayor could not be here today but he is a great Mayor. Mayor Pro Tem also stated that he is on a little vacation and needs a little time for himself and Mayor Pro Tem is the Mayor Pro Tem so he stood in his place. Mayor Pro Tem stated that it is a great honor to be a representative of District 3, and an honor and pleasure to be a representative of Marion City, honor and privilege to be representative of Marion County. He also stated that it's just an honor and privilege to be a part of human family. Hopes and prayers that we all get home safely and hopes and prayer that our City continues to grow and grow more fruitful even though sometimes it's just otherwise.

Councilman Frazier asked what happen to the News people we don't go out on the air no more. Mr. Ammons stated that he hadn't talk to them.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, ***A motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson.*** The motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
Taped: July 9, 2019