

**MINUTES**  
**MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL**  
**TUESDAY, August 13, 2019; 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
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk	Tony Flowers, Chief of Police
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	
Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director	

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER –MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY**

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

**2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Denley Caughman led the Opening Prayer, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS**

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

4. **APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2019**

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

5. **JULY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Vondell Roberts of the Public Works Department was named ***July Employee of the Month***. Mayor Ashley Brady thanked Vondell Roberts for all he does for the City and for doing a fantastic job. Mayor Brady presented Vondell Roberts with a gift certificate.

6. **NAMING OF PROPOSED STREET BEHIND MARION COUNTY MUSEUM**

Mayor mentioned that a Letter from Senator Kent Williams was placed in front of each Councilmember when they sat down. He said the area behind the Marion County Museum which is the big vacant lot where the School used to sit years and years ago. They are building a peyorative park in remembrance of Senator Clementa C. Picnkney memorial park. Mayor stated that they are going to also put a new road right behind the Museum and before the Council aging they are going to put a new road from W. Dozier St. to Godbold St., and Mayor emphasized that Senator has acquired the funds to put in the new road and build the park, and he would like for us to name that street or road. Mayor stated that in the package are drawings of how the road would be and ideas of how the park would be. ***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson.*** The motion carries.

**7. RECREATION DEPARTMENT BIDS ON FOOD CONCESSIONS**

Mayor mentioned as we have done in the last two years rather than the City being in a concessions business we think that it's a much better to bid that process out so that we are not having to go get supplies and so forth. Mayor Ashley Brady also made mention that two sealed bids were opened the day before the meeting, one from L & S Concessions for \$4001.50 and one from Chop Curbside Catering for \$4000.00. Mayor stated that we need a motion to accept the highest big and in this case the highest bid and in this case the highest bid is good for the City of Marion. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to hire L & S Concessions Councilman stated that we have had them for two years and we have not had any problems with them, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt.*** The motion carries.

**8. VACUUM TRUCK SALE DISCUSSION**

Mayor stated that we do have our new Vacuum truck in operation and its working. Mayor said that presently we have started kind of systematically starting on South Main Street the morning of the council meeting and working all the way to North Main catching all the catch basins, then come back and get Liberty St., east and west, and then start working some problem areas. Mayor stated that our new truck is working fantastic. Mayor stated that we are getting through some places that we couldn't get through, and the camera system has helped us identify couple of places where we couldn't see where the blockage was. Mayor informed us that the camera system that we've approved to purchase were able to identify the area of the blockage and go to CTC for funding in the fall to try to get some additional funds to fix this pipe. Mayor stated that we just can't plant pine trees and expect twenty years later were not going to have any problems.

Mayor stated that we are still stuck with our 1993 Vacuum truck. Mayor stated that what he would like for us to do with that truck is to sell it. Mayor mentioned that in talking with the company that we have brought our present truck from, he told us that truck twenty to twenty five thousand dollars max. He said that they talked in retaining that truck and in retaining it. Mayors mentioned that it's a 93' truck with a lot of miles on it. He mentions putting a dump bed on it that would cost us about 15,000 dollars. Mayor stated that his thought process would be to go ahead and sale that truck use those funds to set aside and purchase a second grapple truck down the road and use it for seed money. Councilman Ronald Atkinson mentioned that we can certainly use another grapple truck. Mayor mentioned that we definitely have a few other trucks that we can sell as well. Councilman Ronald Atkinson asked if we wanted to keep the truck and get the pump fixed wouldn't 70,000 dollars repair it. Mayor mentioned that there is a lot of those trucks in service so some smaller cities still use those trucks. Mayor Pro Tem mentioned that we could still use it until the pump runs out and still and still take the pump off the truck and sell it. Pro Tem stated that if we run in to a situation "God forbid" and had an issue where we had much storm water we and; we have had one, we would use it then if we ran into a situation if we had a lot of water. Mayor Pro Tem mentions that the truck could aid us into getting some of that storm water out. Administrator Alan Ammons mentioned that the grapple truck does work some the old one was fooling us and since we have gotten the new truck the pressure is just so much different. He further mentioned that the new truck is going right through some of the places that the old one couldn't. Mr. Ammons mentions that to answer your question yes it does still work some. He stated that the pressure is not where it needs to be and that is how we started out. Mr. Ammons stated that if you remember we got our first estimate at thirty some thousand and then when we got it over there to get it fixed they told us

fifty some thousand and seventy four thousand. He further lets us know that they were trying to get it back to the specs that it should be so when someone goes out to work it will work like it's supposed to. Mr. Ammons informed us that the truck is probably working at about twenty five percent of what it should be. He emphasized that if it's carried in a bad area and that normally where it will be we'd think something bad is wrong with it. Councilman Ronald Atkinson stated so it's not accomplishing anything to keep it serviced. Mayor stated that it would be nice to start a seed fund, savings account whatever you want to call it for the cause of a new grapple truck down the road, and then going to USDA for the balance of that, about fifty percent for a new grapple truck. Mr. Ammons stated that what we could do is at least keep it through hurricane season and then put it up. He also stated that and if an emergency does come up then we would have it. Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that we should hire a backup driver as well as training process. Mayor stated that they would have to have CDL license, and it is very competitive to find a CDL driver because of the salary. Mr. Ammons stated that we have started a little incentive. He informed us that there has always been an incentive if they get CDL but now when employee pass their written part the employee get part incentive and when employee get permit we will give employee a little money and then when employee get license they will get more. Mr. Ammons stated that we have got some people that can help them with the practical part. Mayor stated that Jackie Yates is our great mentor once they written part Jackie Yates taken care of Jackie Yates get out and drive with them, and when they go and take that test Jackie goes with them. ***Mayor has motioned to end discussion.*** The motion carries.

**9. DONATION OF LOT TO CITY OF MARION, TAX MAP # 506-0417-000-000**

Mayor stated that several years ago the main street commons after the devastating fire on Main St. HMRA inquired that property. Mayor stated that we want to

promote the town of Marion and attract people here. We have events and other organizations have events and we got to have a restroom, and they usually rent porta dollies, stated the Mayor. He also made mention that they serve their purpose but not the image the City of Marion wants to have. Mayor mentions that in discussing this with Donny Gerald and Mrs. Francis Gerald about putting a bathroom up there they were so graciously and kind to give it to City of Marion and the City will be responsible for building a bathroom at our cost. Mayor stated that we would probably have to pick up the taxes, and closing cost. ***A motion was made to accept the land and property being given to the City free of charge from Mr. Donny Gerald and Mrs. Francis Gerald that we can move forward to meet our needs as far as restroom by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier.***

#### 10. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

##### Stormwater

Mr. Ammons mentioned that we are going to look at stormwater a minute to give council an update. Mr. Ammons stated that as your know we have been talking about several months ago stormwater maintenance almost everywhere we work we are working on SCDOT stuff and hadn't been working on for years but something has to be done as the Mayor stated earlier we are starting on south Main Street right there at the Police Department and start working our way back. Administrator also mentioned that some other areas that we have worked on during the month is Pee Dee Circle. He stated that all the right a ways cross overs in Pee Dee Circle were cleared and as most know the water drains to the back. Mr. Ammons stated that we did have one problem with the drive ways cross overs and we will have to get that repaired. Mr. Alan Ammons also said that he spoke with Mr. Coleman from DOT and they will be coming in with special type machines on the swell ditching and all they are going to work on that for us. Mr. Alan Ammons

stated that on the back we have a big old tree on the pipe lines. Mr. Ammons stated that another area is on Kimball Drive to Ashley Ave the problem has been identified and he stated this is where the truck and camera paid off if not for them we would of said we needed enough money to replace eight hundred feet of pipe. Mr. Ammons stated that after they got there cleaned it they saw that they only needed fifty feet of pipe, and ask CTC to fix just that section instead of it being a two hundred thousand dollar project it would be a thirty or forty thousand dollar job. Mr. Alan Ammons mentioned on Edgewood Ave. and Northside Ave. we have been working on those catch basins. Administrator mentions that on that side of Northside Apartments we know it's a bad side to flooding. Northside apartment and Green Street beside the armory canals, Mr. Ammons stated that they are trying to get secured the property owners permission and DOT is going to put that on contract with them.

#### LED Lighting Update

Mr. Ammons stated that we finally got all the paperwork in from Green Bulb and been approved by the state, and everything is finalized. Mr. Ammons mentioned that they will be putting the material around the shed, and then they will start working.

#### Rural Fire Fee Increase

Administrator stated that the letter in front of them from the Mayor on Rural Fire fee is changing in the County. Mr. Ammons stated that they are actually going to go up on the fire fee for the County. He also mentioned that he thinks they had the first reading on it the morning of Council meeting. The contentious break down is incorrect on the back sheet that is the part that we objected to agree upon stated Mr. Ammons. He said basically what they are going to do is take money from us and give to other departments so he stated that we objected to that. Mr.

Ammons stated that we have requested that it stays at the same percentage distribution.

CTC- Update

Mr. Ammons stated that lastly we only have one in operation right now over on Park Ave. looks like it should be complete in a couple of weeks. He also said that that project has drug out for a long time, but Mr. Ammons stressed that there were a lot of hidden things that were found by contractors.

**11. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE**

Attorney Brogdon stated that he was happy to report that he doesn't have anything to report.

**12. A FATHER'S PLACE**

No one for A Father's Place at the time.

**13. DESSIE MCKIVY**

No one for Dessie McKivy at the time.

**14. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR**

**Mayor Ashley Brady:** Mayor stated that we have cut the grass at Blumenthal and called the county and talked to Mr. Tim Harper and our employees have been cutting the grass on the exterior of the property and have had a conversation or two with U.S. Attorney General Office and they are not telling him anything or saying anything. Mayor mentioned that we also can't continue to cut the grass and it's just a problem so the Mayor stated that we have went out and got contractor to bid to spray the property and basically turn it into a desert so we don't have that eye sore. He stated that the contractor will spray it down and guarantee it for a year. Mayor stated that we got a contractor because we cannot do it because



we do not have the proper license and nor does the county have an individual on their staff with the appropriate license to spray. Grants Spray Works have given us a bid for twenty five hundred dollars and that's to spray the project and he said that he would go back in about two or three months and if anything is still green he would reapply for that same twenty five hundred dollars, stated the Mayor. Mayor also mentioned that we along with the County; Tim Harper, would spit this with us from his understanding they would have approved the spit the morning of the City Council meeting to pay twelve hundred and fifty dollars and we would chip in another twelve hundred and fifty dollars. Mayor informed us that we will bill Essex Holdings for it. Mr. Ammons confirmed, and said that he spoke with Mr. Harper this morning after the meeting and he say they had approved to split the cost with us for us to pay it and they will reimburse us the twelve hundred and fifty dollars. Mr. Ammons informed him that we will be invoicing Essex Holdings and that he is going to forward us their time and we will also put in their time on our invoice, because statue is they cannot invoice anyone in municipality. Now to say that he understands it's no definite that we will get anything back but it will help the government to go ahead and get out of it and go ahead and give it back to the County so the County can go ahead and put it back on the market. ***A motion was made to proceed with the spraying, county reimbursement, and for Ms. Patricia to find money if the money is not there let her find the money because it is not budgeted by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Frazier.***

**Chief Tony Flowers:** Updated about Budget and Body Camera etc.

Mrs. Ellen Baldwin and her ladies the Mayor would like to congratulate on the successful back to school that she had done down at Pop Dorsey Park. He stated that he thinks she had about nine hundred children. He also stated that they had book bags, cleaning supplies, uniforms depending on what school they went to,

and they had a very good turnout. Mayor stated that we appreciate everything you do in helping out with our children in the community. Mayor mentioned that Ms. Justine Roberts had Passa help as well.

Mayor stated that we have had another book giveaway program this week and the Bethlehem Church had a good turn out and Mayor Brady stated that he stopped over their as well. Mayor mentioned that Congressman Tom Rice was in town yesterday at Grices Recreation Center he brought in school supplies for two hundred and fifty students. Mayor Stated that we appreciate Congressman Rice for all that he do.

Mayor stated that ponytails and youth softball girls didn't win the state championship but they did make it to the tournaments, and he wants to congratulate the girls for all the hard work they put in the summer.

Mayor stated that the recycling program next to the maintenance shop is the recycling, and it is strictly for recycling materials. He stated that more and more people are putting house hold trash and contaminating the container and when it's sent off they reject that load, and it cost the City of Marion money and it's not being recycled. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that we are looking into a recycling grant to start curbing recycles. Mr. Alan stated that what it is we apply for the grant to get a recycling program and it's for curb side pickup. He stated that the curb side container is about half the size of the roll out cart and we have the grant but some details are still being worked out. He also stated that the original grant was for us to buy the containers for who ever wanted them and it would be at no expense to the home owner for the first year but after the first year it may be three, four, or five dollar expense and pick up two times a month. When we had received the notification that we were awarded the grant; however the change was that since use a private contractor to pick up we couldn't use that money to pay on the

monthly fee. We can buy as many containers as we need to buy. Mr. Ammons stated that the problem that we have with recycling for years is that it does become contaminated so we carry it to the recycling center, it gets rejected, and so we only have the cost of the load being carried. Now Horry County puts a fine on it if we carry a load down their now the first three times its one hundred fifty dollars per load that is contaminated and after three loads it goes up to two hundred and fifty dollars and they have a scale and it gets up to four hundred and fifty dollars. Basically what they are saying is that they do not want to accept no contaminated loads in their recycling center. Mayor stated that we don't have the man power to have an employee just sitting and man handling the center. Mayor Pro Tem stated hat the curb side is for the people that have the green type of mind, and those type of individuals will be the ones that will be more diligent about clean garbage. Mr. Alan stated that we have about thirty days to make decision.

**Councilman Michael Baker:** Councilman directed his question to Mr. Ammons concerning the Godbold St. he also wants them to check Georgetown the one they went to before.

**Councilman Joseph Frazier:** Nothing at the time.

**Councilman Ronald Atkinson:** Nothing at the time.

**Councilman Ralph Atkinson:** Nothing at the time.

**Councilwoman Tassie Lewis:** Councilwoman wants to thank Chief Flowers and she stated that she is looking forward to Community Police awareness. She also stated that she thinks it's going to do very well in the community. She also

mentioned that she is very thankful for the ones that gives school supplies to the children.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt:** Nothing at the time.

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose to discuss Municipal Court Personnel Matter, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker.* The motion carried unanimously.

**16. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

*Returning from Executive Session Councilman Michael Baker 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.

**17. 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.

---

Mayor Ashley Brady

---

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk  
Taped: August 13, 2019