

MINUTES

MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 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

Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER -- MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

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

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady 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. Mayor Ashley Brady encouraged the guest watching on TV to come out to Council Meeting as well.

4. **APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, to approve minutes from September 10, 2019. The motion carries unanimously.

5. **SEPTEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY**

Bryan Holder of the Public Works Department was named *September Employee of the Month*. Mayor Ashley Brady thanked Bryan Holder for all he does for the City, and mentioned that Bryan is the one that runs into the fire when we are running out of the fire. Mayor Brady presented Bryan Holder with a gift.

6. **1ST READING ON ORDINANCE 19-05, ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RECYCLE FEE FOR CURBSIDE PICKUP WITHIN THE CITY OF MARION**

Mayor reiterated from the last Council Meeting that the fee for curbside pickup with in the City of Marion would be \$5.69. Mayor Ashley Brady also said that what will happen is that the existing recycling center will be closed, and if an individual would like to recycle they would have to sign up and the fee will be added to their trash bill by weekly. Councilman Ralph wanted to know how we were going to promote. Mayor explained that we have a grant in the amount of twenty five thousand dollars to help purchase and twenty five hundred dollars educational grant that is going to help us educate the public. *A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt.* The motion carries.

7. APPROVAL OF USDA GRANT FOR GRAPPLE TRUCK

Mayor spoke on grant for grapple truck, and it being a fifty thousand dollar grant. Mayor also mentioned that this grant can take up to six months to a year to receive. Mayor also stated that the newest grapple truck had a show at the Convention Center Myrtle Beach and he was coming through town and brought it by for him to take a look at it. Then the Mayor went on to explain the dimensions and features on the truck. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt for the City to apply for the USDA grant for the grapple truck on the information.*** The motion carries.

8. APPROVAL OF USDA GRANT FOR FIRE TRUCK

Mayor Brady started the discussion off by talking about the old GMC fire truck and stated that the truck was sold because the pumper was not good. The grant could take six months to a year to receive and it is a fifty thousand dollar grant, and it would be another six months to a year before it is funded, said the Mayor. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that the reason that we need a second grapple truck is to keep our ISO rating a three. The grant grapple truck will be a reserved pumper truck stated the Mayor. Then the Mayor went on to explain the ISO ratings in a brief discussion. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve as presented, the USDA grant for the Pumper Fire Truck.*** The motion carries.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTProposed C-Fund Projects

Administrator Alan Ammons stated that he passed out some sheets earlier and that list was just proposed C-Fund projects of which we know we have inefficiencies that needs to be corrected. Mr. Ammons stated that the area off of Bluff St. and Oliver St. is number one on the hand out. He went on to explain that this is the area that controls all that flooding off of Spring St. Next Mr. Ammons also mentioned Kimball and Devon Rd. being number two on the list. Another area Mr. Ammons mentioned was Withlacoochee (Tennis Court) area where some more divert catch basins are needed. Mr. Ammons stated that as we always do will try to get more money for driveways, and money to repair sidewalks. Then Mr. Ammons mentioned that we have two big 36 inch catch basins one on Godbold St. and another one on English Park Rd. (Catfish) needs to be repaired they had been washed out for some time. Councilman Ralph Atkinson noted that this list is prioritized well but he also expressed that he has had so many complaints about Main Street and just wanted to know what can be done about the complaints. Mayor Brady affirmed that two weeks ago Mr. Ammons and he met with Senator Kent Williams, Representative Lucas Atkinson and two representatives from South Carolina DOT for about an hour and a half at the County Office and Mayor stated that the conversation was the same thing. When are you going to pave North Main Street? stated the Mayor. Mayor Brady then mentioned that the answer they got was the directives comes from Columbia as to what streets get paved. Mayor Ashley Brady assured that the response he received was that they have a crew that drives a special truck with sensors that measures the bumps and grade the roads. Mayor stated that the questions that they had for them were when Godbold Street and Main Street will get paved, and

the response from the two fellows was that Godbold Street is on the list. Mayor said that it didn't fly too well with them and Senator Kent Williams said to the representatives if they could get him some information on it that he would make a call to the Secretary of Transportation and see if we can get on this list.

Mayor Ashley Brady mentioned that in talking to the guys about the two cents added every year to the gas tax and the way the Census was written it has to be one hundred percent (100%) used on paving roads. He also stated that there has been such a lack of infrastructure and paving for the last fifteen to twenty years. Mayor also emphasized that they have more projects than they have contractors.

Mayor stated that we have replaced the drains behind the houses on Marshall Street. Mayor also stated that the guys have cleaned Bethlehem, Montgomery, and Spring St., and all three of those Streets run toward the retention pond behind the Tobacco Store. Administrator Ammons brought up we'd be hard pressed to go to transportation committee about paving North Main Street, and that's US 501. He also stated that they would get seventy five percent (75%) from the Federal Government to pave it because it's a US Highway, so DOT that's one they would go after because they get seventy five percent. Councilman Ralph stated that he didn't mention it to go after C-Fund money but he was speaking for the general population. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the C-Fund Projects as presented.*** The motion carries.

Miscellaneous

The LED Green Bulb guys are here and working Mr. Ammons informed us. Mr. Ammons said that we are probably twenty five percent (25%) complete. Administrator also stated that Green Bulb in working on the City and County at

the same time and hopefully within the next thirty days (30 days) or so they will be finished. Mr. Ammons did inform that the Tollison Gym is finished and it's a big improvement.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson stated that he has noticed on Main Street a couple of power people and he was wondering what they were doing. Mr. Ammons stated that they are actually working on PASSA with Justine Roberts.

10. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Brogdon didn't have anything at the time.

11. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – CHRISTOPHER DAVIS

Mr. Davis is inquiring about keeping and exhibit up at Shannon Wilkerson gym and being able to show the exhibit and not be able to interrupt anyone's schedule. Mr. Davis stated also that he does not have a problem paying he just wants to be able to show the exhibit when he needs to show it. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that the City property does not need to be used as a museum. Councilman Baker asked Mr. Davis had he checked with the Recreation Director to see if that is permissible. Mr. Davis expressed that he have not per say. Mr. Davis expressed that it's a bit of a hassle to keep taking down the exhibit up and down. The Council went into a brief discussion trying to come to a conclusion for the information presented. The end results from the Mayor were if it's ok with Council to let himself and Alan come to a conclusion and bring the logistics back to council.

12. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady: Mayor stated that he had shown pictures of Wilcox Ave. last week, and that hole is pretty much covered up. He also made mention that it came to his attention that they are replacing a water line and the day before they

replaced a gas line. Mayor stated that the game plan is to put dirt on it and compact it with gravel, let some cars drive on it and in about a month come back and pave that section. Mayor stated that he and Alan attended a meeting with Congressman Tom Rice in Horry County and the Flood Commission, Article of Engineers were present and several other people. Mayor said they had a little Q&A and raised his hand and stood up and asked about Catfish Creek and low and behold they said it was on the list. Mayor pointed out that the money that they are spending now is Hurricane Florence. He also said there is another one hundred and fifty seven million dollars (157,000,000) to be spent but must be appropriated for litigation, but they have not got the register from Congress yet of how or what they can spend it on. Mayor also stated while speaking on the Catfish Creek Mr. Seagross who has brought the old McIntyre Farm property he is cleaning Catfish Canal right now. Mayor encouraged everyone to go out and see what he has already cleaned and Mayor also stated that he will be cleaning from Highway 76 to English Park on both sides. Mayor said that we will be working behind Blumenthal the paved side and will go south some.

Mayor mentioned that Fire Prevention Week was the week of the Council meeting and there was one hundred and eighty children at the Fire Department. Mayor mentioned that they were working on Pine Street, and historically have been having issues. Mayor met the night before the Council meeting with the crime watch at the Fire Station and chatted with them a little bit. Mayor stated that we are working in conjunction with Mrs. Ann Burroughs with the Housing Authority where the Housing Authority would lease the equipment because of the need of bigger equipment. Mayor said that they rent the equipment and we will put our guys on it and let them work at it. The Council had a brief discussion about it being on Strawberry Street to Smith Swamp.

Mayor spoke on fall sports and mentioned that it's interesting to see the children play. Mayor then spoke about Senator Clementa Park and it being surveyed and they have started doing some work.

Councilman Michael Baker: Councilman Baker stated that he and Alan rode around to tie up a few loose ends in various areas. The old Willie Wendell's house was cleaned up the last Wednesday before the Council Meeting, and Councilman stated that it looks great.

Councilman Joseph Frazier: Councilman Frazier mentioned the Construction Company on Liberty St. named Faithful and said that the building looks nice but all the mounds of dirt are piled up with grass coming out of them. Councilman stated that something needs to be said about it, they need to be leveled off or something. Councilman Frazier stated that it is an eye sore coming into the City. Councilman mentioned about the House on Gilchrist and wanted someone to tell him about it. Mr. Ammons mentioned that it is on the County sale is coming up, but that piece of property is in the forfeit sale and, they should be having a sale sometimes. Mr. Ammons mentioned that he just had someone to ask him about it and he stated that he told them to call Ms. Portugal at the County. The property owners had walked away and they have tried to sell it at the regular tax sale and it didn't sell so they are at the point now where it will be auctioned off and if they get dollars for it or fifty dollars for it, it will sell.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson: Didn't have anything at the time.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson: Didn't have anything at the time.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis: Councilwoman Tassie Lewis would like to thank everyone for their condolences in the loss of her dear Aunt. She also stated that

she had been getting a lot of complaints about the field behind Martin Luther King and according to the inquiry that property do not belong to the County that it belongs to whomever has that building and she stated that Mr. Ammons is aware of it, and she stated that hopefully we will get some leeway and get that property cut. Councilwoman voiced her opinion that that she would like for us to be proactive and keep that field cut before it gets out of control like it is now. Councilwoman mentioned the coat drive Rise Above It All give away will be on the 16th od November and if a winter item would like to be donated please take it to the Recreation Department or Contact Ainsley and she will take care of it. Councilwoman stated that another thing is that we are looking forward to recognizing our students of the month, and said that it is a new project and it is a way to give back. The student must have a C average or better be enrolled in Marion School District One and write an essay and title it "What can I so to make Marion a better place to live?"

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt: Mayor Pro Tem Hunt stated that he would just like to wish everyone a good day, and we have a great City and he appreciate the Citizens that helping clean out these Creeks on their own. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt also appreciate the Housing Authority, Administrator and Mayor working in conjunction with people to make good very practical things happen without involving a whole lot of money.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of Personnel Matters; Municipal Court, Police Department, Fire Department.

14. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to go back into Regular Session. The motion carries.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to allow Mayor Ashley Brady and Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to go into contract with Mr. Harry Allen to be our New Public Defender at a cost of \$15,000 per year. The motion carries.

15. 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

City Clerk Ainsley Sanders

Taped: October 8, 2019