

**MINUTES**  
**MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**CONFERENCE CALL / SHANNON WILKERSON GYM**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilwoman Tassie Lewis	Councilman Ronald Atkinson
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt
Councilman Michael Baker	

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	Keith Parks, Chief
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk	
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	
James Brogdon, City Attorney	

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

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

**2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ashley Brady led pledge and prayer.

**3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY**

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed all guest.

**4. APPROVE MINUTES –**

- Regular Meeting September 8, 2020
- Special Meeting September 22, 2020

*A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve our Regular Scheduled meeting on September 8, 2020, and Special Meeting on September 22, 2020. The motion carried.*

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

Mayor Ashley Brady would like to recognize our **September Employee of the Month**. Mayor Ashley Brady mentioned that the Employee wasn't present because he had a conflict at the last minute. Mr. Ellis Green. He's been with us about 4 years now and works for the Public Works department but he started at the Recreation department. He cuts the grass and works well with the edger. He's always willing to help where he can. So if you see him congratulate him on getting the employee of the month.

6. **READING ON ORDINANCE 20-11 AN EMERGENCY TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE NORMAL OPERATING PROCEDURES OF MARINO CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO DEVELOP AND ENACT A PLAN IN ORDER TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN THE DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK; AND MATTERS RELATED THEREOF**

Mayor Ashley Brady read the Ordinance 20-11 An Emergency Ordinance to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of Marion City Council meetings and to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity in the delivery of Government Services in light of the covid-19 outbreak; and matters related

thereto. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier.*** The motion carried.

**7. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – 3 YEAR TERMS**

- James W. Graves – appointed October 2020 for the term expire November 2023
- James Mitchell – reappointed October 2020 for term expire November 2023
- Russell White – reappointed October 2020 for term expire November 2023
- Byron Beck – reappointed October 2020 for term expire November 2023

Mayor stated with the Zoning Board of Appeals we need to reappoint 3 members and appoint new member James W. (Chip) Graves will be a new appointee October 2020 for term expire November 2023, and to reappoint James Mitchell, Russell White, and Byron Beck. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson hunt and Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier.*** The motion carried.

**8. REQUEST FROM MARION COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Mayor Brady stated that included in the packet is a request from the Marion County Library System. What they would like to do is they working with Duke Energy. They have this thing called a storyscape. They want to temporary use the Hike and Bike Trail and have little picture board signs to tell a story. It's a neat project and it's no cost to us. The library systems and Duke's doing it.

Administrator Alan Ammons stated that they are going to purchase all the material and it's no cost to the City, and will last until first of the year. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis to approve the request of Marion County***

***Library to use the Hike and Bike Trail for November and December.*** The motion carried.

9. **DISCUSSION PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT ON CAPITAL SALES TAX PROJECT**

Mayor Brady mentioned that number nine is the discussion on the playground equipment in Capital Sales Tax projects. This goes back with a little bit of history. When we did our first Capital Sales Tax several years ago the citizens funded 10 projects and then there were a number of alternate projects to fund if the funds were there. Well the Capital Sales Tax is good. They funded the ten and they are finishing up the last project, but we got funded for our alternate project which is playground equipment. It was initially going to go to Watsonia Recreation Center for about \$32,000.00 well time has flown through and we're trying to re-focus our attention to the Green Street property (Pepsi Cola property we brought). So what we are coming to they are wanting to close out the phase one of the Capital Sales Tax Project then they can start funding (they being the County) phase two, which means we get our money back and we can start working on City Hall and the Green Street Complex. But we've got to finish off phase one. What I'd like to be able to do is for us to agree to take that \$32,000.00 and buy the playground equipment; that's in the Capital Sales Tax deal, right now don't install it at Watsonia but store it at the Pepsi Cola building that we own, and then when that project gets billed out we will have that equipment that we can put between the baseball field and the new project so the kids will have a place to play right there around where the parents are at or the neighborhood kids. Just go ahead buy it, store it, bill that

project out, install (we will have to pay some install cost) and install that playground equipment at the Green Street Complex. Councilman Ronald Atkinson asked “can you postpone the installation?” Mayor Ashley Brady replied yes we can do it whenever we get that work done down there we just have to get the \$32,000.00, buy it and store it. A brief discussion was made on tape about going before the commission again to move to Green Street.

Mayor stated that the County has a lot of projects under phase two, but the County can’t and won’t fund phase two until they finish up all these little ones. Councilman Ralph Atkinson was just clearing up that we would have to get it approved to move the location. Mayor stated that Tim said that he would present it to them and go that route. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to get approval to approach County Council when it’s approved; playground equipment approved on the Capital Sales Tax Project phase one then buy the equipment and move it from Watsonia.*** The motion carried.

**10. REQUEST TO SALE CITY OF MULLINS SURPLUS TRUCK BED – PUBLIC WORKS**

Mayor mentioned item number ten is a request to sell the City of Mullins Surplus truck bed. If you notice at Public Works we got an old F-800 pickup with a dump truck in the back. It’s got a blown engine we’ve been using parts off it here and there for truck that we can use. The City of Mullins has approached us about wanting to buy the dump bed off of it. The truck is working the dump bed just needs to be replaced. It would be helping the

City of Mullins out and we estimate the value of that to be about \$800.00 just for the dump bed, and if Council desires to sell it we can. Brief discussion took place on tape. ***A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, to sell the dump bed.*** The motion carried.

**11. BUDGET REQUEST FOR REPAIRS TO FIRE TRUCK**

Mayor stated that item number eleven request for repairs to Fire Truck. Included on your desk is an estimate from Safe Industries for the repair to our 1995 Fire Truck. So basically this Fire Truck in great working order except for a few things. The pump is not working properly. Mayor stated that he would like to expound on the pump because it's not working properly. It did not pass. They have to do an annual and bi-annual pump test and we didn't pass it. The truck is a good truck. It's a 1995 with low mileage on it. If that truck valued today, if it was in working condition it is about \$50,000.00. The worst case scenario to fix that truck is \$ 17, 046.00. Mayor thinks he can do it for a little bit less, but told him to give him the worst case so if he gets it approved he won't have to come back. Mayor thinks it's worth fixing the truck and we need the truck. A new truck would cost about \$400,000.00 and \$17,000.00 is a whole lot better than \$300,000.00 - \$400,000.00. To keep our ISO rating and both stations properly equipped. Mayor needs a motion or discussion. A brief discussion was held on tape. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to accept Safe Industries quote***

***and authorize Patricia to adjust money to make this happen.*** The motion carried.

**12. DISCUSSION ON COMMERCIAL GARBAGE PICK UP**

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that Alan's going to hand out a handout. At the Special called meeting last month we discussed our contract with AWS and we voted to non-renew their contract as December 31st. Since that meeting what has come to our attention is that the commercial dumpsters. With the commercial dumpsters we are getting bombarded with calls and complaints. Mainly our restaurants (handed out were taken the morning of the Council meeting), and other industries as well. Mayor also stated that some of the accounts were supposed to be picked up the day before the meeting. Obviously you can see they are quite full. The Shell station on South Main he has been talking to us since last week, and you can see South Main Street Shell station is just over flowing. Thomas Supply, Huddle House, Taco Bell, and the thing with the Restaurants is a health and sanitary issue for them. They got DHEC on them as well and they get a B rating, and who's going to eat at a restaurant with a B rating. Most of these places are paying for two to three times a week pick up. Couple of places we went by they dump one of the dumpsters and left the other one full. So just wanted to bring to everyone's aware also he handed another print out of actual emails we received regarding this so it's just no us its documentation where we are sending them. People are calling us and sending emails where the service is not being provided that they are paying for, and are forwarding those emails to AWS and saying "Hey ya'll got to

take care of these issues that we are having to deal with.” Just want to bring you up to date on these items we got today, and then we will move on and discuss it further in Executive Session.

### **13. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

- SCDOT update

Administrator Alan Ammons stated two things in the packet were the two request that we had made with SCDOT. One was a request for downtown for DOT to crosswalks on Main Street. They did agree to restripe their crosswalks, and the City wanted to add one at the Farmer’s Market we could at our own expense. The other request was for the neighborhood on Withlacoochee, McEachern Heights, Godbold Street area in that area request for four way stops at those two intersections. DOT did there research and they denied the two request because of reporting’s of traffic accidents in a 3 - year period, and Administrator thinks it was one accident. Just wanted to bring back to your attention in case you had any questions.

- Report on City facilities re-opening

The reopening of the City facilities; He stated, he thinks we are good where we are right now. Don’t think we need to increase the rentals. He recommends Council leave things the way they are right now with the one per week. Obviously if people want to do things outside that is fine, but as far as building leave them just like we got them. He stated we got 11 cases today.



- Approval to request funds from CTC

Next were two request proposals for two CTC projects (Administrator stated that he only had on set of pictures). The first one is to do drainage repairs and the estimated repair is \$100,000.00 and the second would be for extending the sidewalk down just north of Millridge, and that would be \$50,000.00.

- Drainage Project on Bobby L. Davis Blvd.

As you can see from the pictures it has been a continuing problem all the way down Bobby L. Davis Blvd all the way down to the very end. As you can see those houses within six inches they have water in them, and we had a two inch rain. It wasn't a lot of rain but that's what it will do with that drainage we have in place right now. He will be requesting for Council to approve to allow us to have CTC to fund these two projects.

Mayor stated since that flooding we went in there with our new mini track hoe and there is a ditch that runs behind those houses, and we cleaned that ditch some. There was a small ten foot section of pipe, and everybody knows a pipe is the worst thing for collecting of trash. We took out a whole section of 10 foot pipe that was a little driveway cross over, cleaned out all the stuff, but that's not going to fix it all. In talking to the contractors if we go with a 48 inch pipe underneath the road and then tie it into a big canal that runs into catfish that should help alleviate a lot of the problems. We know that catfish is over the banks it's going to still slow it down, but we want to do the storm drain first and then get the money to do the sidewalks. We don't want to put the carts before the horse. The drains got

to go first and then the side walk on top. A brief discussion went on, on the tape.

Mayor stated in talking to the contractor. Once he got it funded and approval to do the storm drain portion of it would take him about a week to put the pipe in. So soon as we can get with CTC to approve it. We will put it out to bids. Yea you could do 60 to 90 days.

Administrator Alan Ammons stated that the only thing would be we would not be the only ones after the funding. They could approve and then a year before they come back and approve the other one, but we are asking for both of them. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to move forward to request for both funding's on Bobby L. Davis Blvd one is \$100,000.00 and the other one is \$50,000.00.*** A brief discussion took place on tape. The motion carried.

Administrator stated that he passed out flyer for free covid testing at the County Administrative building. He also talked to DHEC today they are planning to come two times in November and do it right here in the City on a Saturday in the Shannon Wilkerson parking lot from about 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. One of the days supposed to be the 27th, but soon as they get it hammered down he will get it out to Council, and we will start advertising. Lastly is the immediate release from the Governor's Office concerning some funding for low income businesses, and small businesses, grants they can apply for. Everybody was given a copy of that, that way we can get it out to the public. The County is advertising and we will also be advertising.

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

Mayor Ashley Brady want to give update of somethings we've been working on. As most of you see or seen. They have started the paving process on Huggins Street. We approved the funding we got funding from CTC committee they sent about \$85,000.00. They started yesterday doing some side work on the sides, patching, driveway patches. According to Mr. Herrington they probably going to be back in here Friday to complete the paving of that Street. We wish we could pave all the Streets at one time but as you'll know there is limited funding and all these Streets belong to South Carolina DOT and the question is why did you pick Huggins Street because in our opinion that was the worst Street, the most traffic count and that's why we chose it. There are other Streets that need it and he understands; Main Street, Godbold Street, Jones Street, and multitude of other Streets, Dickerson Street, and Gregg Street they all need it, but limited funding. We're getting money. We'll go for the money, ask them and keep on going. If you have any questions about any particular Street I encourage you to speak to your Legislator, and you're Senator. DOT is responsible for paving a lot of these roads and that's where the funding comes from. We all pay gas taxes, but we are doing what we can to pave what we can. With the limited funding we can get access to.

Next is really a proposal that I'd like to present to you on some revised Street Signs, and there is a handout. Today we put up a prototype Street sign. Several years ago we did some Street signs on Main Street and those where the old green signs that a lot of the green is flaking off, and all we see is the aluminum and can't see the letters. So what we request and we

have a prototype today; and we just put it up today, his request to Council is to change it from a green to a black post, black letter. Instead of it being like black aluminum spray paint. It's all black and white vinyl adhesive material like you would stripe an ambulance with. It's UV resistant. Should hold a lot better in the sun. If that were to meet ya'll approval then we could go to. We've already ran it by the Historic Commission and they have approved it. Then we can seek the funding. It's going to cost about \$10,000.00 to replace the signs on Main Street, and we are talking from the North end to the South end of Main St. A brief discussion took place on the tape. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to allow Mayor and Administrator to find funding up to produce these signs throughout Main Street.*** The motion carried.

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that some other things we have been working on is edging South Main Street. The grass this summer has really kicked our behind, as far as raining. So we have been doing a little bit of edging on South Main. We typically do our edging in January and February when it's a little bit slower but with all the rain we had the grass grew and so we have been working on that, and on Liberty Street. We talked about the flooding on Bobby L. Davis. Also off of Huggins Street we went in and working with SCDOT on Pee Dee Circle. Pee Dee Circle we took out a couple of tree's that were in the way of some drainage. And all these driveways have tiles underneath them so that water goes down, Pee Dee Circle to a big catch basin. We've cleaned the catch basin out, but what happens over the years those tiles under all those driveways get filled up with sand, debris and

trash, or they ran over the edge of the pipe and it being a metal pipe it collapsed over and so the water is not flowing like it should, and it ponds in front of people's houses and can't get to the storm drain at the very end. So we went into conjunction with DOT, taken out a few tree's, and DOT is going to come in and re do those drain pipes underneath the driveways on Pee Dee Circle at their cost. We just going to have to help them with what we can. If they need our assistance we will jump and help them, but they going to get underneath the driveways done so we can get that water flowing so it won't be ponding as much in front of the residents. So that's just to give you an idea what we are working on.

Of course all knows that Dennis retired. Donald Curry is our new Code Enforcement Officer, and he has hit the ground running. He is staying very busy.

Chief Parks is here, and a little late getting here. He is doing a fantastic job. He had a little call he had to go to so that's why he was late getting here but he had a little incident that happened just before he got here.

On Marshall Street we went in; and City owns a lot of that land right there in the center right there where the railroad track used to go through there. There were a number of older tree's that causes some problems and some issues so we went in there last week with our new track hoe and in a matter of that morning we took out five big old tree's pushed them down, hauled them off, pulled in the bull dozer leveled out some sand to help the neighbors in the neighborhood there and kind of cleaned up our property, and trees that were just falling and dropping limbs. We have the time grass is slowing up so we can do other projects.

Amazing Grace Clementa Park if you haven't had the time to ride by there you need to do and look at it. They are working on a walking trail that circle and navigate the property. They are putting in the parking lot. It's like eighteen inches of rock and the pavement is on top of it, it's going to be very nice addition to the downtown area of Marion, and honor to Senator Clementa Pinkney as well. So if you get a chance go by and take a look at that.

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

**Mayor Ashley Brady:** Made his remarks on number 14.

**Councilman Michael Baker:** Councilman Baker stated that he had a brief talk with Chief Parks on the way in and he did inform him we need a decimeter. (Alan and I talked about that) In order for the Officer's to write the tickets they need to be able to measure and by State Law they need that in order. Chief Parks briefly expounded on the software concerning the decimeter and State Law requirements, and being in compliance.

Councilman Michael Baker also mentioned loitering and that it's outdated. Chief Parks elaborated on loitering and that he has been meeting on loitering with the Judge and said that is something we have to get together, and go into Executive Session and kind of look at. Further discussion took place on the topic on tape.

Councilman Michael Baker stated for the noise the same reason we need to get with the State. The Judge is also throwing those out so we need to go back and look at that.

Mr. Ammons stated that once whatever that number is in the Ordinance. The Council may adopt one number, and go to Georgetown County and it be a seven, but that will be something Council decides.

Chief Parks went on to speak about Myrtle Beach not wanting bike week rallies but North Myrtle Beach did. Myrtle Beach put in place and North Myrtle Beach did because they wanted the revenue. We just got to have a better leg to stand on. The Judges are taking heat from Chief Magistrates so they are not going to wiggle or half way put together. Because there is nothing more discouraging than the Officers out here working and writing tickets and then it comes to court and gets dismissed. I don't care who you are, and so we have to give them a leg to stand on.

Councilman Baker stated the Judge when these cases are coming before the Judge.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that we may be getting the cart before the horse. We need to change the Ordinance, and then the Judge can enforce the Police can enforce the Ordinance, the Judge can enforce what the Police do. We need to pass the Ordinance. A brief discussion more went on tape.

**Councilman Joseph Frazier:** Councilman Joseph Frazier spoke about County Council and met on how to improve Marion. He stated he was only one up there. (Mayor Ashley Brady interjected that he thinks Mr. Ammons made one of those meetings.) Councilman Frazier stated it's sad. There were 8 people from Marion and Mullins combined. The Council gave the Troy family a resolution. Councilman asked did we give money. A brief

discussion went on tape. Mr. Ammons stated that we got CTC money for the driveway. Mayor stated that were doing the driveway and we've told them we'd help them with grass cutting.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that \$100,000.00 for that driveway.

Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that we support the Senator but he say we don't invite him. Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that, it don't make any sense to him.

**Councilman Ronald Atkinson:** Councilman Ronald Atkinson stated that he is having complaints with yard pick up then he is about garbage pickup. He stated he know that he has been gone a lot this summer but he left today two weeks ago and stuff was put side the road and still there today and there was other stuff; now this is the North end he don't know about the South end. Three weeks ago there was some stuff that's been at least three months, he called Alan and they picked it up that day. He stated he shouldn't have to call Alan or Alan shouldn't have to have these calls to pick up yard debris. Don't know if the truck was broke down or what. Mayor Brady stated it was broke down and the main cylinder was broke down on it. Mr. Ammons stated that it was down for like a day and a half. The cylinder broke. We had to carry it to Columbia and got it back the next afternoon. Councilman Ronald Atkinson said 99.9% of the stuff that is put out is put out by tax payers by hand. It aint put out there by back hoe. It's put out there piece by piece. We got trucks, pitch forks. We used to pick up some of that stuff. We don't have to wait for grapple truck.



Mayor Brady said and you are correct the grapple truck doesn't do it all. We've had employees out with covid they had family members out. Staffing has been some of the issues. Mayor said he'd just put it like that. We've got to have guys on the mowers to cut the grass, and we need people to pick up trash. I'm with you 100%. I see it every day myself. I cringe just as much as you do. Councilman Ronald Atkinson says he is just saying that because it's not getting done, and yet says trash people doing the same thing. They probably having trouble with covid to.

**Councilman Ralph Atkinson:** Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that he had several people call him about what are we going to do about trick and treat (Halloween)? Mayor stated that he had conversation to go ahead and have Halloween as we would normally have it. Put it out on Facebook, and we will start getting the word out that we are going to have it, and of course as in the past if individuals do not wish to participate then cut your light off like you have in past.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that, it was his response but they wanted to know what the City think. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that having it is normal and get the word out if you don't want to participate just cut your light off. If you don't want to be exposed to the children he understands, but the children need some kind of normalcy. There not in school they can't do this they can't do that. A brief discussion went on further on tape.

**Councilwoman Tassie Lewis:** Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that this year is the third annual coat give a way. She says that it does not have to be a new coat. It can be a gently used coat. It can be a gently used coat. Ainsley has been very instrumental in sending those letters out. We may have to have it the third Saturday in September but we've had to move it back to the 3rd Saturday but it will be drive in (out). They won't have to get out vehicles. It will be second Saturday in November. If you would like to make a donation make checks payable to the City of Marion.

**Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt:** Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt just wants everyone to be safe. We honor Chief and respect you in your prospective.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- AWS – Solid waste agreement

***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to go into Executive Session to discuss AWS – Solid Waste Agreement.***

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

***A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson that no action be taken in Executive Session.***

The motion carried.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to adjourn. The motion carried.***

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Mayor Ashley Brady

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Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk  
Taped: October 13, 2020