

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2019
6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

**Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt (Absent) **

STAFF PRESENT:

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

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

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

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady did the Opening Prayer, and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8). Mayor made aware the agenda being sent out this morning but had to have an amended agenda. Attorney Brogdon interjected that it’s a minor procedural matter concerning the agenda. Attorney reported that as we all saw the agenda went out the day before Council and another went out the morning of Council meeting. He informed that number eight (8) regarding the approval of the acceptance of the grant funds to

purchase new recycling containers was a new item sent out, and that in going forth under the rules, because it was not put on the agenda with a twenty four hour notice it requires a motion of a two thirds vote to be added to the agenda by the council. ***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to add agenda item eight (8) to the agenda specifically adding the roll out carts.*** The motion carried.

4. **APPROVE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, to approve minutes from November 12, 2019. The motion carried.

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

Mayor expressed that it is always a pleasure for him to acknowledge the employee of the month. Mayor announced that the **December Employee of the Month** is Corporal Casey Henry from the Marion Police Department. Mayor mentioned that Casey has worked with us a number of years and he appreciates all the hard work that she does. He also presented Casey with a gift.

6. **RESOLUTION – MR. SEAGROVES**

Mayor informed that this resolution is to recognize Mr. Rick and Tyler Seagroves they are the gentlemen that own the farm and have done all the clean-up work at Catfish Creek Canal which affect the City of Marion because all of our drainage on the west side of Marion drains into those canals. Mayor told us that they took the initiative to do it and we didn't even have to ask. Mayor asked Tyler to come up and give him some presentations. Mayor asked the Clerk Miss Ainsley to read the resolution. Ainsley briefly read the resolution. Mayor informed us that Mr. Rick could not be at the Council meeting because he had previous an engagement.

7. **PUBLIC WORKS – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY**

Mayor made a presentation with pictures and videos of clean ups around the City to include Catfish creek, Strawberry Street and the canal that runs behind it. Mayor showed some pictures behind Grice's Recreation center to show what it looked like before the cleanup even started. Mayor named a few that helped in his brief explanation of what happening with the Public Works Department.

8. APPROVAL TO ACCEPT GRANT TO PURCHASE RECYCLING ROLL OUT CARTS

Mayor reported that we did receive a grant from DHEC for the purchase of roll out (recycling) carts and in order for us to accept the monies we need an approval to accept the grant for the purchase of the roll out carts. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis to accept the grant to buy the recycling carts.*** The motion carried.

9. BIDS FOR RECYCLE ROLL OUT CARTS

Mayor mentioned that we sent out all the spec to all the parties that are in the roll out can, trash business that are in our area. They came back with one initial bid and DHEC came back and said we had to get what they call a RFID tags which are in the handle and that RFID tag is like a serial number tag. That will remotely tell where the cart is at if it is loss and if it had been emptied stated Mayor Brady. So the bid for four hundred and twenty five (425) carts and they are ninety six (96) gallon carts recycling blue color, and Mayor stated in their agenda the revised bid we have two bids one from Amick for twenty four thousand nine hundred and ninety four dollars and seventeen cents (\$24,994.17), Otto Environmental Systems for nineteen thousand twenty-six dollars and seventy-four cent (\$19, 026.74). ***A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to accept the low bid from Otto Environmental at nineteen thousand twenty-six dollars and seventy-four cents (\$19,026.74).*** Mayor stated that once we were able to accept this then we will start the process of ordering the carts, and we also have a small grant for some educational stuff from DHEC so we will start that process as to notifying the citizens when the recycling center will be closing, where to come and sign up for it, then when we do that what will be applicable

to be put in that roll out cart. Just as a reminder by the Mayor it will be a subscription service at the residence so if someone would like to recycle it will be a five dollar and sixty-nine cents (\$5.69) monthly fee for a bi-monthly (every two week pick up) of the recyclable material. Mayor informed that so there will not more having to go to the recycling center. The motion carried.

10. **REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – REV MARVIN HEMINGWAY-PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL**

Reverend Hemingway stated that he had information that he would like to give to the City of Marion. A twenty five thousand dollar (\$25,000) grant has been awarded for health projects for the month of February. Rev. Hemingway stated that they are going to provide free healthcare but is not sure how they are going to do it. Reverend Hemingway is asking that we draw up a proclamation asking for February as Oral Health awareness month. He also stated that the Marion County Coordinating Council has been granted a two hundred and fifty thousand dollar (\$250,000.00) grant from the Blue Bill of Health and a two hundred seventy two thousand dollar (\$272,000.00) grant from MUSC. With this grant Rev. Hemingway stated that they will be addressing twenty-four year old children with obesity problems and will include classes from Sellers, Brittan's Neck, Gresham, City of Marion and Mullins. Classes will be twice a month and will be spending five dollars with food stamps (SNAP card) and fifteen dollars fruits and vegetables boxes twice a month. Reverend Hemingway also stated that they will have free transportation with PDRT, and some monies have already been given to PDRT. Rev. Hemingway further made the point that there will be a free loop from Mullins, Sellers, Nichols, and all throughout Marion County. They can go to the doctor appointments throughout Marion County for free for two and a half years. Rev. Hemingway made a presentation to the City which included a proclamation that stated two thousand nineteen (2019) as Elected Official year he briefly read through the proclamation, and presented it as presented. Mayor thanked Rev. Hemingway for all he does.

11. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – LARRY D. SMITH – 18 WHEELER TRUCKS – MANNING STREET

Mayor stated that Mr. Smith is not present but as you see he was going to be present last month and didn't make it, but we have advised Mayor stated that he thinks the Police Chief is doing a pretty good job of monitoring Manning St.

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Holiday Schedule

Mr. Ammons stated that he wanted to bring to the Council's attention the Holiday schedule that we will be off the twenty fourth (24th), twenty fifth (25th), and twenty sixth (26th) of December. He also stated that the trash pickup will be the same way it will be one day behind. Mr. Ammons reminded Council also that we may have some employee's working on the twenty sixth (26th), and we will be off New Year's Day.

Tiny House Discussion

Mr. Ammons reported that he hadn't had any calls on it and it seem like all of a sudden he has been having calls on tiny houses. He stated that we don't have but one place right now that allows it and that would be Thomas Trailer park. He stated that in the other zoning districts they require the houses to be at least eighteen feet (18ft) wide which would be a double wide which is a manufactured home, and twenty four (24) and twenty eight (28) wide are allowed in some general residential areas. Mr. Ammons further stated that what he would like to do is carry it to the Planning Commission and let them come back with some recommendations, bring it back to Council, and kind of see what some other municipalities are doing to address this because it's new across the state. Finally, Mr. Ammons recommended that maybe we want to put them in general residential or create a special district or something like that, but that is something that he thinks we will see in the future.

13. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Brogdon does not have an update at this time.

14. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady: Mayor would like to remind Council that tomorrow is the employee's luncheon at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym. Sunday was a big day in the downtown of Marion expressed the Mayor. The Christmas parade was moved from Saturday to Sunday at four thirty (4:30). Mayor mentioned that Santa rode to town in our 1937 American Meclancy Fire Truck, so hats off to the Marion Fire Department for all the excellent work in the last month. Mayor stated that they told him about two months ago that it is going to be in the parade and he said they have a long ways to go but they made it and it didn't cut off, but had other tow's just in case it did. The Christmas parade led up to our annual Tree Lighting followed by our fireworks show affirmed the Mayor. It was a well-attended event.

Mayor mentioned that we have been busy with Catfish and Strawberry St., and at the same time getting all the Christmas decorations up on the trees. Couple of projects we have been working on as well, said the Mayor. Mayor also mentioned that we have receive last month or couple months ago CTC funding's to work on a stormwater project up on Ashley Avenue and that project has started. He stated that it is slow but has started they had to get a big pine tree cut out of the way and then on a power line with about fourteen thousand volts running through it we thought but we have rectified that issue.

Mayor stated that we have reprovod some previous FEMA projects from Hurricane Florence. The sand at the volleyball court down on Withlacoochee Park has been replaced and there in the process of finishing the mulch and over at Grice's recreation.

Mayor stated that for the last couple of years we have been distributing food boxes to our citizens that are in need and Housing Authority has helped us as well as DSS has helped us out as well. Mayor mentioned that distribution is on the eighteenth (18th)

and nineteenth (19th) it's still not too late if you would like to make a contribution. Mayor mentioned that you can get it to Miss Ainsley at City Hall and we will be glad to take that donation. Mayor gives a shout out to Mrs. Sarah, the manager at Food Lion, we tell them about how many boxes to prepare and they have them packed and ready all the Police Chief and Fire Chief do is roll up to the big door and load it out. Mayor reiterated that they do a good job at the Food Lion in helping us out. Mayor thanks the Citizens that make monetary contributions to help some of our citizens that need a good hot meal here at Christmas time.

Councilman Michael Baker: Has nothing at the time.

Councilman Frazier: Councilman stated that I know you said that you cannot do anything about that faith place but you need to take that man around there and show him what Supply Road was in bad shape but that man fixed that place up and boarded it up and made it look decent. Mr. Ammons stated that he has talked to Reggie and he said that he was going to work on cleaning it up a little bit for you. Councilman Frazier said that's it and he wishes everyone a happy Holiday season. Councilman Stated that's about it and he wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we will see you next year with the good Lord and three or four angels. God bless everybody stated the Councilman Frazier.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson: Nothing at the time.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson: Councilman Ralph Atkinson just wanted to reiterate that he thanked the Mayor and staff for the Christmas Tree Lighting and all. Councilman thanked the Seagroves and all of their hard work cleaning out Catfish and Housing Authority and all of their hard work and all the expense that is involved it is really going to help. Councilman stated that Mr. Alan may want to remind everyone about the fireworks during the Holiday's. Councilman stated that we always have someone wanting to know when they can shoot fireworks.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis: Councilwoman wanted to say thank you to Mr. Seagroves, City employee's, Mrs. Ann Burroughs and everyone that have collectively impacted the

safety and wellbeing, and beautification of our City. Councilwoman Lewis stated that it means a lot to her and she is sure that it means a lot to Council. Councilwoman Lewis would like to thank Reverend Hemingway for all that he does and she is looking forward to the grants and the other activities that he has in place. Councilwoman stated that he has always invited us and just looking forward to working and in continued support with him, also Councilwoman Lewis would like to thank everyone that supported the coat drive. This was the third year and it was successful and Mrs. Ellen Baldwin came and, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, so many of you, Mayor, Attorney Brogdon, and Grace Community Church has just been awesome. Councilwoman stated that Grace is Mr. Alan's Church. Councilwoman stated that again she would like thank all for making a difference in the lives of our children that otherwise probably wouldn't had a coat for the winter, and if there is anything that she can do as an Elected Official to impact with other with their events please do not hesitate to call, and as Mr. Frazier said she wish everyone a very safe and blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Councilman Michael Baker asked that since the Chief is here he would like for him to give us an update on the Christmas Fireworks. Chief Tony Flowers stated that he think the schedule is from the week of Christmas from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and New Year's Eve he thinks that it is from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Chief Flowers stated that he did pass out a copy of the Ordinance to every Officer so they are aware of what the Ordinance is so if we do get calls they can tell those shooting fireworks what the Ordinance is. Mayor stated that we will get it out on social media as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt: (Absent)

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
Taped: December 10, 2019