

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

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 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed citizens, guest and the press.

4. **APPROVE MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve minutes from February 11, 2020.

The motion carried.

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

The employee of the Month had been with the City of Marion for a numerous of years. **March Employee of the Month** is Jacolgan Mack.

Mayor also stated that he is also known as Officer Mack. We appreciate his hard work and dedication.

6. **BID FOR ROSE HILL CEMETERY MOWING**

We had previously discussed printing out the grass mowing for Rose Hill Cemetery and in the packet there should be seven bids that range from \$25,000 to \$225,000 and a criteria. Mr. Alan expounded on the criteria of the bids. He explained that the criteria for the bids were pretty in-depth and pretty much spells out what we expect them to do such as grass cutting, limbs and things like that. We will still pick up from the side of the road but they will be responsible for cutting grass, weed eating, spraying, and keeping it up. Brief discussion took place about major storms.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson was concerned about the variance between the bids. Mr. Ammons stated that Randy Brown and he met with a couple of the contractors and he told them all the same thing. That if we have a hurricane or a bad thunderstorm and trees were down that was not included. He stated that this is more like limbs, and just keeping it trimmed

that it didn't include if we had a heavy duty storm. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to give to Graham's Spray Works for \$25,000.00.*** The motion carried.

7. **BID FOR SIDEWALK REPAIR – MARION POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor stated that as we have discussed in the past if you would go down to the Marion Police Department at the front entrance our side walk in the front of the building is brick tile work. The tile has sunken and the concrete has a little ledge there which creates a trip hazard. We need to fix the trip hazard and also improve our handicap access ramp on the northern side. Mayor stated that we put it out to bids for two different proposals for them doing everything or for just the contractor to do the concrete and the City crew to do the demo. Elm Construction out of Pamplico was the low bidder at \$3,194.00 for just doing the concrete work itself and we would be responsible for doing the demo and haul off the concrete. A brief discussion concerning deciding about their move and replace or replacement only was feasible was discussed. Mr. Ammons discussed that he had talked with Winky and that it is really about a timing thing. He stated that we want to get Council to approve of the low bid either way just depending on how they work and if they have time. We are getting into the grass season. Councilman Ralph Atkinson asked if we had enough money to do it that way, and Mr. Ammons stated that is what we discussed last Council meeting to authorize Mrs. Brown to make the adjustments in the Police Department Budget. ***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to go***

with Elm Construction for removal and replacement whichever is convenient at the time. The motion carried.

8. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Update CTC Projects

Mr. Ammons stated that the Ashley Ave. Project is finally complete on CTC. So we are moving on and we have another project the driveways and couple little storm drain projects and we can move on with them now.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Ammons stated that Grand Strand Water and Sewer has contacted Pee Dee Council and Governments and want to apply for a CDBG Grant for renovations to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. What they are proposing to do is put a berm around the treatment plant down at the end of Collins Street behind the High School because of the recent flooding with Florence and Matthew. Mr. Ammons stated that he is bringing it to Councils attention, and will be in the name of the City of Marion. It will be no cost to us. We won't run the program the Council on Government will run the program. They just have to go through the City of Marion because of the CDBG which in years pass we would have applied for that same grant but since we don't have water and sewer and they have the funds to match and the additional funds. Mr. Ammons also stated that it is about a 4.3 million dollar project. They are requesting 888 thousand CDBG and then they have the rest of the money. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to give***

authorization to Grand Strand Water Sewer Authority to approach Pee Dee Council Governments for this CDBG Grant and work with them in a better effort to better supply services to the Citizens of Marion. The motion carried.

Mr. Ammons stated that he has supplied the information to all the employees so that they can be aware of somethings concerning COVID-19.

Mr. Ammons stated that if you get sick stay home. BCBS in South Carolina can be reached by phone. He informed that if you have an iPhone BCBS can be facetimed. We have got all this out to all the employees to be as much on top of this as we can.

Mr. Ammons stated that Mrs. Brown has been getting together a plan so if something was to happen, if we were to be off for a few days. If someone was to get sick at City Hall we'd have to be off a few days anyways to get the building sanitized anyways stated Mr. Ammons. A brief discussion was discussed concerning Mrs. Patricia and Ashley Allison having access to work from home. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to authorize the Mayor to act in response to whatever pandemic things that happen in the prerogative that affect the City as a result of County, State, Federal, concerns to give him the discretion to take action and have the authority granted by Council to exercise that discretion.*** The motion carried. A brief discussion was made concerning catfish creek and the water treatment plant.

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

Attorney doesn't have anything for us.

10. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady: Mayor wanted to start off by saying congratulations to the Marion Ladies basketball team for the Lower State Championship. Mayor stated that his suggestion would be to do a resolution and have them at the next council meeting. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker.*** The motion carried.

Strawberry Street Canal should be completely finished stated the Mayor. So the Housing Authority will reinstall a fencing and she's also installing new camera system on the back side of that property as well just to keep eye on the people that be trying to cut the fence trying to cut the canal. Mayor stated that if you haven't had a chance to take a look at it he encouraged it. Mayor spoke with Mrs. Ann Burroughs this week. Alan and Randy Brown met with the Housing Authority over on Spring Street concerning some flooding issues that are constant. The Housing Authority is bringing their engineering in to replace some storm drains, catch basins, and do a lot of work. They are going over to Watsonia Street where some storm drain issues over there to work on that and told us to be putting out the bid process and that there thought process is to have it done by May first. So thank you to Mrs. Ann Burroughs for the continual help to mitigate the stormwater. A brief discussion was made concerning infrastructure and accommodation.

Rogers Road and Northside Ave the Mayor stated that we have been working on some canals. Had one canal that service the area behind Fox

Hollow and Rogers Road and have been working that area and trying to find out why the water was standing on the highway and low and behold we found a dam, a man made dam with two small pipes in it, and Mayor went to the gentleman that own the property on both sides and we were able to work a deal with him and he agreed, and so we were able to take the track hoe, and took the old dam out. This was a canal that was probably about 7 foot deep by about 8 foot wide that drains to the North side of town. Mayor said that hopefully that will solve the water standing on Rogers Road when we have these heavy rains. Mayor stated that the last two or three rains, the water seems to be flowing pretty good The Mayor thanks the gentlemen for letting us go on the property to remove the dam and he said that he is just trying to be a good Citizen.

Working with Senator Kent Williams Mayor stated that we were able to get \$30,000 dollars approved for Catfish Creek of course the Seagroves family had done a good portion of it so we still got to work on the Northern portion of it around English Park, where the water and sand build up so high. Mayor stated that we are going to clean out that portion of English Park where Mr. Seagroves had stopped. We are going to use some of that money for beaver control. He said we can clean it all we want but if we've got to take care of some beavers. The County and Kent is able to get that for us and we appreciate what they did on that.

Mayor mentioned that we are going to be meeting and everyone is welcome to come concerning stormwater meeting with Congressman Tom Rice next week Wednesday March 18 out at the County Administration Building. They have got a big pot of money and they have eight Counties

that they have to service this large pot of money. Mayor stated that every time Marion County, our name is mentioned Congressman Tom Rice stated that you want to do Catfish Creek, and Mayor stated that he tells him yes Sir! Mayor informed, and stated do not hold him to the dollar amount but he's sure that about 157 million dollars was allocated to eight counties and Congressman Rice and the Flood Water Commission are trying to figure out how they can get the biggest bang, services in each County and still use the money they have. So Mayor mentioned that every time he gets the chance he is mentioning Catfish Creek and Smith Swamp. A brief discussion was held about Smith Swamp and Catfish Creek. Mayor mentioned that some of that money can be used for Water Mitigation and Flood Mitigation program. Mr. Ammons stated that he thinks about 54 million dollars of the monies can be used for it. Mayor stated that "if we can come up with a stormwater plan for the City and the County then there is grant money that we can go after but we have got to have a plan and it cost money to come up with a plan." Got to have a plan so that you can go get the grant money, because you got the plan, but you got to have the money to pay for the plan. A brief discussion about a plan to come up with a plan with the County was discussed.

Mayor Brady went on to inform us that the Volleyball court with some FEMA money that project has been completely finished and re-sanding the Volleyball court. They will be starting the 2 walking tracks, Withlacoochee Park and walking track at Grice's. They will be putting new sand clay on that in the next couple of days. Mayor also stated that we will

be putting out bids with FEMA money to clean and maybe resurface the Tennis court at Withlacoochee Park as well.

Chill Cook off was this past weekend and was a good success, and Run Fest. Mayor stated that we had a large number of runners in town and everyone seem to have enjoyed themselves for that event. The last thing that Mayor has is to remind everyone that next Tuesday from the Council meeting is 7 p.m. at Woodhaven and it's our employee recognition dinner and he encouraged everyone to be in attendance with that.

Councilman Michael Baker: Nothing at the time.

Councilman Joseph Frazier: Councilman Frazier said everything is going well and he is 86 years old. Everyone wished him a Happy Birthday.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson: Councilman Atkinson stated that we still have a tremendous amount of lights out in the City. Mayor instructed that he will talk to the Chief and see if they can work on that. A brief discussion was held about lighting in the City.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson: Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that he knows everyone calls on Alan and he has had to call on him two or three times and if he calls him and if he takes care of the citizens that contact him. Councilman stated that he takes care of their problems or staff to help get it done. Finally he stated that we just need to thank Alan more than we do. He also stated that he might not need a pat on the back but we

appreciate what he do, and the citizens and tax payers appreciate what he does and being responsive to their needs.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis: Education and prevention stated Councilwoman. She stated that we all have this fear. We need to educate ourselves and use any and every preventive means in the spread of the coronavirus.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt: Councilman stated that he would like to thank everyone for coming to the meeting tonight and he hopes that everyone is doing fine. Certainly can't let the coronavirus keep you from this meeting and he do appreciate it and he prays everyone has a great weekend.

Mr. Alan stated that if anyone knows anyone that needs a job we have got the brochures up here at City Hall.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson to go into Executive Session for Legal Advice/Sanitation Services, and Personnel Matter in regards to the Police Department.

12. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Ronald Atkinson to return to Regular Session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to Adjourn.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
Taped: March 10, 2020