

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SHANNON WILKERSON - VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 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
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer
James Brogdon, City Attorney
Chief Bobby Crawford

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 said prayer and pledge.

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

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed all guest.

4. APPROVE MINUTES –

- Regular Meeting – April 13, 2021

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve the minutes for the Regular scheduled meeting. The motion carried.

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

Our employee of the month is (actually today is her last day) Vickie Nichols. She's retired and has put in notice. She has done a good job as working as the clerk. She has done a number of jobs has been grant writer in the past. She has decided to go home and be with her children. We applaud her for the years she has worked for the City of Marion. She's going to stick around a little bit. We have hired a replacement, and she has agreed to stick around a little while to help with the transition. We do applaud her for all she does, and if we need her for something in the future we will give her a call. Another item on our employee. We has a luncheon here last week and we recognized service pins for employees and Councilmembers that has been here for a number of years in the City of Marion. Councilman Ralph Atkinson wasn't here so I'm going to present him with his pin. Councilman's been here 30 years. Congratulations to Ralph and Vickie.

6. Ordinance No. 20-15 **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**

Ordinance 20-15 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.

This is just a renewal of what we have done in the past. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson on Ordinance 20-15 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.***

The motion.

7. **BIDS ON RESTROOMS – MAIN STREET COMMONS**

Mayor Ashley Brady mentioned that included in the packets are the bids for the construction of a new restroom at Main Street Commons. As you see in the packet we have the specs and we only have one bid on it. As a full disclosure, this is my brother Patrick Brady, and so Mayor sustain from any voting on this particular project. We had three or four persons to do inquiry but we only had one person to return bid. We had two local contractors to inquire, they picked up a packet just didn't turn in a bid. We had budgeted some money with the hospitality budget to take care of that. We're going to have to shift some funds to take care of that so we can pay for it out of the hospitality. ***A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to accept the bid Patrick Brady Construction for the bathrooms for \$72,500.*** The motion carried.

Mayor Ashley Brady reiterated that he abstain from voting on this project.

8. **REQUEST TO AMEND HOSPITALITY BUDGET**

Mayor Ashley Brady mentioned that we had put in the budget \$45,000 to this project, but with the cost of construction and the pandemic the cost of everything has gone up tremendously. We also put in our budget \$20,000.00 for some new concrete down at the Green Street Sports Complex, and \$60,000.00 down at the Lion's Park shelter. Mayor's suggestion is to the \$20,000 that we had allocated for the concrete down at Green Street, and \$7,500.00 of the Lion's Park shelter. So that would be \$27,500 shifted to take care of the bathroom. ***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis to make necessary adjustments.*** The motion carried.

9. **REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – JEANETTE ROGERS**

Mrs. Jeanette Rogers introduced herself and started by stating that she was here today to address the two water drains on L Street that are flooding her backyard. She went on to say that this has been an ongoing problem for her for almost twenty-five years. On

June 5, 1996 a letter was written to Mayor Bobby Gerald asking him to correct the drainage problem to our backyard. Today she is still having the problem. The flooding in her backyard is so awful that it takes weeks before it dries. She does not have access to her garage without boots. My dogs can't come out of their dog houses because the water is so high. Her grandchildren can't play in the backyard. She can't work in her flower beds as it is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. There has been so much water on L. Street that she have had a waterfall in her backyard. The standing water on L. Street has caused damage to her fence. The excessive amount of water on L. Street has made it hard for her neighbors, Eddie and Gloria Huggins to get out of their driveway without bogging down. The water has flooded her properties on: 410 Arch Street, and 105 L. Street making it hard to gain access. The water has flooded the end of Arch Street so many times that the road is hazardous to drive on. The Park on East Fairlee and Montgomery Street has also flooded the drainage into Arch Street. Something has to be done to help with the flooding problems. The drainage line on L Street all the way across Mrs. Jeanette property to Montgomery Street the pipes are Vitrified clay pipes and have been there for many years, and the drainage needs to be upgraded and rerouted. A new drainage line was started on L Street years ago but stopped half way of L Street at the water drain. She stated if the drain line was continued to Godbold Street, this would alleviate the water problem and solve the flooding problem for her neighbors and my properties. Mrs. Jeanette Rogers is asking for help in finding a solution to this flooding problem that has gone on for almost twenty five years. She stated that she is asking what she has asked then to please help correct the flooding problem. She finally stated that she appreciate the council allowing her to speak on this flooding problem and she anxiously await a reply on a solution to solve this problem. A brief discussion went on, on the tape.

10. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

- Covid-19 – City Operations

Administrator stated he'd like to bring our attention to City operations. Numbers are dropping every day. Marion County is in single digits.

Baseball/softball game will start next week. It's that time of year again we've started with our grass notices. Starting to get them together and get those mailed out probably end of this week.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Brogdon do not have anything at the time.

12. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady: Mayor Ashley Brady started off by reading a letter to inform the Council that Dr. Harold Ford passed away on January 9th, and they wanted to thank us for allowing her to serve the community in her capacity over the years. Keep the family in mind and the services that she's done for the City of Marion over the years. Recently we demolished the Ranch Club. Had a clean asbestos report. The City took care of that particular property. Another eye sore in our community that we are aware of is the old Jenkins Nursing Home. We've had a couple conversations. I ask of them if you get us an asbestos report. If the home owner or building owner would get us the report with the expense to them. The Ranch Club had a clean asbestos report. I understand the old Jenkins had an old broiler, and what you would call pliable asbestos. We've asked them a couple of times. Once we get the asbestos inspection we find out how bad the issues are and then get some piping on that and once we figure out what the cost factor is. Our same offer would be we would in conjunction with the County get rid of that property and make it a green space. My proposal to Simon Jenkins when he was living and it's the same proposal, but they have got to get us an asbestos report first and see how much asbestos is on the property and that goes for any residential property. The abatement will be the expensive part, and I don't know that the City can afford to do the abatement. That would be a big size project, and a lot of asbestos in it. A brief discussion went on.

Note that on Bobby Davis Blvd they are in the process of finishing up that storm water project. It's going to probably be at least another two weeks. We found another drain line that Grand Strand didn't even know was there, and we have to deal with that.

Of course everyone knows today's Election Day of course. I'd like to congratulate Councilwoman Tassie Lewis for her re-election. She was unopposed.

Councilman Hunt, Councilman Baker I hope elections go well, and of course I'm (Mayor Ashley Brady) is up for election as well. I'd have to say it's been an honor and a pleasure to serve each of you and serve our citizen's as a whole. We've done a lot of good things for the citizens of Marion. Our Council is a very good Council, and I am hoping to be here next month so we can continue to do the things we are doing for the citizens.

Councilman Michael Baker: This is re-election and

Councilman Joseph Frazier: Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that he just wanted to thank you for Gilchrist Court...(interjection from Mayor Ashley Brady). Brief discussion went on.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson: Councilman Ronald Atkinson stated that he hope there is a good turn out with election and he have enjoyed working with everyone.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson: Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that he agrees with Ronald, and it's been a pleasure working with you all. Hope all is well with the election. Appreciate the 30 year pin. It's been a pleasure to serve the citizens of Marion for 30 years plus. Again appreciate the award. Michael and I go way back he said, and to the Rogers I am sorry for the problem drains.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis: Councilwoman Tassie stated that it has been a pleasure working with you guys because it's just me. I learned a lot and have been challenged with a lot, and thank you all for all of your support, verbally and or financially.

Congratulations to Mr. Atkinson, 30 years is a long time to serve. Covid is still here so stay safe.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt: Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt stated that I've literally learned a lot. I have a great passion for the position. My prayer is to move forward. Appreciate everything everybody's doing.

Councilman Joseph Frazier had one last comment. That lumber down at Catfish is treated wood right? Mayor Ashley Brady ensured that the wood is treated. Brief discussion went on.

13. ADJOURMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to adjourn. The motion carried

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
April 13, 2021