

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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

** All on conference call**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. PRAYER

Mayor Ashley Brady did the prayer.

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

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed all guest.

4. APPROVE MINUTES –

- Regular Meeting January 12, 2021

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

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

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that it's his pleasure to announce two weeks ago we had a police officer riding down the road, he stopped his police car, got out and picked up a lot of litter that was alongside the road. Somebody saw that act of kindness, took pictures and posted them on Facebook. Our January employee of the month would be Marion Police Officer Chris Bulgier. When you see him thank him for all he has done. He is a dedicated employee. He didn't have to stop and pick the trash up off the side of the road but he did.

6. **2nd READING ON STATE WIDE STANDARDIZED BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATION**

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that we have already passes the first reading of the State wide standardized business license application and do we have a motion for the second reading? ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier.*** The motion carried.

7. **READING ORDINANCE 21-01 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 Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve Ordinance 21-01 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 carried.

8. **BIDS FOR GEORGETOWN ST. - RESURFACING**

Mayor Ashley Brady mentioned (included in the packets) about a week and a half ago with the County Transportation Committee otherwise known as CTC. One of our projects was the paving of Georgetown St. (included in your packet) is the bid sheet for re surfacing of Georgetown St. We've got several bids in and the low bid being Palmetto Paving bid coming in at \$ 98,472.58. ***A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to accept the low bid coming from Palmetto Corporation for \$ 98,472.58.*** The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt announced himself present on the call.

9. **BIDS FOR BOBBY L. DAVIS BOULEVARD – DRAINAGE PROJECT**

Mayor Ashley Brady mentioned that we received bids for Bobby L. Davis Boulevard Drainage Project. Flood had occurred and we got with a contractor and gave us a plan to replace an old 30 inch metal pipe, 48 inch concrete pipe, renew some catch basins, clean some ditches. The low bidder was Moody Construction at \$78,460.00. He has to be completed by April 1st. ***A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve Moody Construction for \$78,460.00 for drainage project on Bobby L. Davis Boulevard.*** The motion carried.

10. **UPDATE CITY NEPOTISM POLICY**

Mayor Ashley Brady mentioned he was going through employee handbook and had some issues with family members working for the City of Marion, and we do have the instances, but not a lot. So what we want to do is we got with our City Attorney Mr. Brogdon, and he reviewed the City's Nepotism policy and included in packets was a revision that basically says you can have family members working for the City of Marion just not in the direct supervision of the family member nor can you hire or fire or make any administrative action against the family member. It has to go to the next highest employee. Mayor Ashley Brady asked can we get a motion to approve; included in the

packet, the updated City nepotism policy. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the City's Nepotism Policy.***

The motion carried.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

• Covid-19 – City Operations

Administrator Alan Ammons mentioned he'd like to bring Council up to date on our covid-19 operations. We are still under limited access on all of our City buildings. The recreation department has started basketball following all the covid-19 recommendation as far as sanitizing gym after play. It is limited to only the intermediate family of the particular players. So it's a very small group. We actually have games tonight at both gyms. We are still encouraging all of our employees to follow all safety precautions, not only at work but at home as well. Practice social distance. We are still providing mask and sanitizer for all employees. We have had several employees this past month that have been positive. All of them are doing well and hopefully they will be back in the next week or so.

12. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Brogdon had nothing at the time.

13. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady: Mayor Ashley Brady stated last Thursday the City hosted two vaccination clinics. One for MUSC at CD Joyner Auditorium, and vaccinated about 600 citizens. Then the following Friday we hosted at AC Tollison. We hosted DHEC, and were able to vaccinate about 400 individuals. So that's a great thing for the City of Marion that we were able to get one thousand citizen's vaccinated with their first vaccine. MUSC has a follow up vaccination on February 25th for individuals that receive their first shot last week. Just come back on the 25th at your same time you had before and you can get your second shot. So that's a great thing. We are working in coordination with

TWIG, MUSC, David Holkin, and DHEC. I've told them that "as long as ya'll got the shot we got the spot!"

Last Wednesday we hosted covid-testing at Grice's and had about 40 individuals to be tested, and tomorrow out at the Marion County Administration Building they are going to do another drive through testing for covid. Next Wednesday, Friday 17 they are going to be hosting a testing for covid at the parking lot at the Fire Department. If you know anyone who needs testing you can do it next Wednesday there.

So we have got some construction and paving going on. They have awarded the contract for the paving of Godbold St., and they being South Carolina DOT. They have awarded the paving for Godbold St. which will run from Withlacoochee Avenue to Liberty St. by the Circle K Station.

They are also going to pave Montgomery St. as well, and that's the Street that runs beside the Rescue Building over to Manning St. That is about a million dollar project. We have been working with them for about two years now trying to get that Street paved.

Also in addition to that about two weeks ago. They awarded a contract to pave North Main Street. That also was a SCDOT project to pave Main Street from Jones Ave. (Anderson Brothers Bank) to Luther Rogers Road by Food Lion, and that's about a \$750,000 project, and DOT is managing that. We have talked to Grand Strand Water and advised them these Streets are in the phases of being repaved and if they need to do anything as far as water or sewer on those streets now is the time to do it if they can get it done prior to DOT paving those Streets.

We have had a meeting with the County Transportation Committee (CTC). We've got a bid for \$98,000 we were able to get funding for the paving of Georgetown St. which we previously approved, and that runs from Main Street all the way over to Green St. We also as we were doing the paving projects (included in packets) received a letter this week from the Mount Pisgah Church asking that we pave Henry McGill St. The CTC meets on a quarterly basis and were going to include (go out and get bids) for the paving of Henry McGill St., and a couple more Streets. The focus of the CTC Committee right now is paving Streets.

We were able to get some funding for drainage project, but according to the chairman of the CTC committee they're looking at paving Streets. So I think we can probably go to them after funding on Henry McGill Street but we are also going to look at a couple more Streets as well. From the CTC Committee we also got \$78,000 for that storm water project on Bobby L. Davis Blvd. Other grant funding \$887,000 grant in working in conjunction with Grand Strand Water and Sewer. What we are going to do is build a berm around the sewer treatment plant which is behind the National Guard Armory. You might ask why's that berm around that treatment plant important? If we have another major hurricane, flooding like with Matthew and Florence. If that facility were to flood and they couldn't operate the sewer treatment plant then the citizens of Marion would not have operational toilets. We all want operational toilets so they will be starting on that project, building a berm around the sewer treatment plant to prevent flooding. All that water comes from Smith Swamp. If it floods then we have a problem.

As you probably have seen we have a lot of edging. The Vac trucks working throughout the City on all sides of town; North, South, East, and West. This is a slow time of the year so we are able to catch up on items like sidewalks edging, cleaning storm drains, and getting those type items taken care of.

As you well know last month we took delivery of our second grapple truck. We split the town east to west. We been running those grapple trucks and picking up trash, and really haven't had any issues. That's going great.

As you remember we talked about our old track hoe that we had. We brought a new track hoe. We had an old track hoe that was worn out, and we were hoping to get \$10,000.00 on govdeals auction. Well it closed out at \$23,700 close out sale. That's about \$13,000.00 dollars more than we anticipated which that money goes to pay for the second Grapper truck we brought. So at the end of the day that second Grapper truck's not going to cost the City \$10,000.00 out of pocket if that much. Thank you to Patricia and her hard work in managing the money.

If you need a yard sign that says slow down. Alan has some and will be glad to get them to you so you can put them out, or if you want him to put them out just tell him hey I need this sign put out on this street, and this intersection.

I'm shooting for and striving as long as our covid numbers decrease we will probably do this meeting next month in a live format at the gym, and eventually be back at City Hall.

Councilman Joseph Frazier: Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that that everything is pretty much well set.

Councilman Michael Baker: Councilman Michael Baker stated that he don't have anything.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson: Councilman Ralph Atkinson wanted to thank everyone for what they are doing. Alan keeps things going.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson: Councilman Ronald Atkinson mentioned he don't have anything just thank you all for all you do.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis: Councilwoman Tassie Lewis mentioned she's just thankful for the opportunity to help out with MUSC on last Thursday. She thinks it was a great turn out. Also there is a number to the vaccine appointment line and its 843-876-7227. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that he saw Councilwoman Tassie there working and doing a great job. Thank you for your volunteer in assisting citizens with the vaccine clinic.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt: Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt stated that he doesn't have anything but hope everybody is doing well.

Mayor Ashley Brady Stated in closing "Ladies and Gentlemen we are going to get through this covid-19 I think our county is working great together on everything we have going on.

14. **ADJOURMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to adjourn. The motion carried

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
February 9, 2021