

**MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**HELD VIRTUALLY**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022**  
**6:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held by Marion City Council on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt presided. Council members Ronald Atkinson, Michael Baker, and Tassie Lewis were present. Mayor Ashley Brady and Councilman Joseph Frazier were not in attendance. Staff present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Lakesha Shannon, City Attorney James Brogdon, and Police Chief Bobby Crawford.

Mayor Pro-tem Hunt called the meeting to order, gave the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then welcomed citizens, guests and the media that joined the virtual meeting.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting held on January 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried unanimously.

**JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:**

Chandler Tisdale with the City of Marion Fire Department was named the January Employee of the Month. Mayor Pro-tem Hunt thanked Chandler for his great work and dedication to the City.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION**

City Clerk Lakesha Shannon read the City of Marion's Black History Month Proclamation. Councilwoman Tassie Lewis motioned to approve the Black History Month Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried unanimously.

## **1<sup>st</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 22-02 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FILING FEES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR**

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt noted that this ordinance would set a fee of \$250 for any candidate filing for the position of city council, and \$500 for candidateS filing for the position of mayor. These fees would become effective for the April 2023 City of Marion general election.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson motioned to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance 22-02 **An Ordinance Establishing Filing Fees for Municipal Elections for the City Council and Mayor** The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis. The motion carried unanimously.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

City Administrator Alan Ammons provided an update on Covid operations. He stated that the City is fully operational, and continues to track the cases of the new Covid variant. He noted that over the past few days, the number of cases has declined both nationally, and locally in Marion County. Marion County has averaged about 6-7 cases per day. Mr. Ammons commented that a couple of weeks ago the City experienced its worst times as far as city

employees infected with Covid. He noted that there were 7-8 employees out at the same time; however, all these employees have recovered and are now back at work.

Mr. Ammons stated that March is the usual time for the Annual City Employee Banquet. He requested the consensus of council on how to move forward with this year's event. Following council's discussion, Councilman Michael Baker motioned to approve March 25, 2022 at 1:00 pm for the Annual City Employee Banquet. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis; motion carried unanimously.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE**

There was no legal update.

#### **DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FOR COUNCIL AND MAYOR**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt** expressed that he is grateful and honored to stand in for Mayor Brady and preside over the council meeting. He sent his love and prayers to the entire community, and stated that city will continue to become greater as the city leadership works together with the citizens.

**Councilman Michael Baker** requested an update from Mr. Ammons on the LED streetlight study. Mr. Ammons stated that he has not received an update as of yet. Councilman Baker stated that he spoke with a staff member from Duke Energy and was advised that a workorder would need to be submitted to replace the LED lights. Mr. Ammons stated that a workorder was submitted during the initial survey request to complete an audit and determine the cost of replacing the lights. He stated that it's been about 30-45 days and

they are still awaiting a response. However, they have asked that any lights that repeatedly go out be replaced with LED when reported.

**Councilman Ronald Atkinson** had no comments.

**Councilwoman Tassie Lewis** commented that she has spoken with Mr. Ammons regarding a complaint from a citizen on Pine Street about the upkeep of their neighbor's property. She stated that she advised the citizen that there are things the City does and does not have control over. She added that herself and Mr. Ammons have spoken with this citizen in the past, and advised them that the City is hoping to come up with a resolution to the issue of upkeep on the street. She stated that the City will continue to encourage the upkeep of properties. Councilwoman Lewis thanked City Clerk Lakesha Shannon for the reading of the Black History Proclamation, and highlighted some black history facts. She encouraged everyone to continue to work together to make our city and country a better place.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis and seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt

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City Clerk Lakesha Y. Shannon