

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held by Marion City Council on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in which Mayor Ashley Brady presided. Council members Ronald Atkinson, Michael Baker, Joseph Frazier, Donny Gerald, and Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt were present. Councilwoman Tassie Lewis was not in attendance. Staff present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Lakesha Shannon, City Attorney James Brogdon, Police Chief Tony Flowers, Captain Bobby Jones, and Fire Chief JTBass.

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order, gave the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then welcomed citizens and guests.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING JULY 12, 2022:

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting held on July 12, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried unanimously.

JULY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Mayor Ashley Brady named Sgt. Jacolgan Mack and PFC Steven Johnson with the Marion Police Department as the July Employees of the Month. He thanked the officers for their help with recent fires in the City of Marion. They went above and beyond to assist in their role as police officers and helping the firemen.

PRESENTATIONS:

Marilyn Woodberry

Ms. Marilyn Woodberry provided an update on her recent Back to School Supply Giveaway. She stated that the event was a success. She personally thanked Mayor Brady and Council for everything they did to make the event possible. She thanked Councilwoman Tassie Lewis for attending the event and presenting her with a beautiful plaque on behalf of the City. Ms. Woodberry stated that she provides school supplies throughout the year to new students, families that experience burnouts, and families that do not have the resources to purchase school supplies. She noted that Mayor Brady recently supported her in helping to purchase school uniforms for a child that was unable to attend school because they did not have the proper uniforms. She further stated that Mayor Brady supports her event each year. Ms. Woodberry suggested that council members go out and attend community events so that the citizens know who they are. She would like to see the entire council at her 2023 back to school event.

Mayor Brady thanked Ms. Woodberry for all that she does for the community, and passion for the children and her church.

APPOINT ADA COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mayor Brady stated that there are two vacancies on the ADA Committee. He recommended the appointment of Lakesha Shannon to replace Mike Richardson, and Janet Baker to replace David Hollandsworth. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt motioned to approve

the recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and carried unanimously.

BIDS FOR MARQUEE SIGNS ON HWY 76, 576 & GODBOLD STREET, AND LIBERTY STREET:

Mayor Brady stated that this item would be discussed in detail under agenda item #10 Request for ARP Funding.

BIDS FOR RECREATION CONCESSION STAND OPERATIONS

Mayor Brady stated that only one bid was received this year for the recreation concession stand operations for the 2022-2023 sports season. The bid was received from L&S Concessions for \$3,000. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt motioned to approve the bid from L&S Concessions for the \$3,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR ARP FUNDNG

Mayor Brady stated that there are several projects recommended to be funded through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The projects include:

- **Stormwater Projects - \$225,000**
 - A. Montgomery, Spring, Godbold Streets
 - B. Park Ave, Franklin Drive and outfall ditch

Mayor Brady stated that the City will apply for grants to complete these projects. The requested funds will be the City's match to cover the total cost.

- **Police Department Emergency Response Equipment - \$30,000**

➤ **Fire Department Surplus Fire Truck - \$20,000**

Mr. Ammons stated that the Florence County Unified Fire District has two surplus firetrucks and a tahoe truck for sale. They have offered to sell all three vehicles for \$20,000. Mr. Ammons noted that the City of Marion's new fire truck will not be ready until 2024. Once the new truck is delivered, these vehicles can be sold to recover the funds spent on the purchase.

➤ **Street Sweeper - \$195,000**

Mayor Brady stated that there have been a lot of issues with the current street sweeper, and its current value is not worth the repairs needed. He recommends the purchase of a new one.

➤ **Fire Department Fire Hose Replacement - \$35,000**

Mayor Brady stated that the firehoses are tested on an annual basis and has a life expectancy of 15 years. He noted that it is time for the hoses to be replaced.

➤ **Digital Signs - \$80,000**

Mayor Brady explained that a digital billboard to be located at Hwy 576 and Godbold Street in front of Gore's Tire was previously budgeted for in the hospitality budget. Another digital billboard to be located in front of the old Beneteau Plant oh Hwy 76 was to be purchased with ARP funds. He recommends that both purchases be combined and funded through ARP funds for a total of \$80,000.

➤ **40x40 Equipment Shed/Public Works - \$90,000**

Mayor Brady stated that this request is to build a shed to cover the bulldozer and trackhoe from the weather at the public works department.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt motioned to allow the Mayor and City Administrator to move forward with completing these projects as presented for a total of \$675,000 in ARP funding. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt motioned to approve the bids for the digital billboards at Hwy 576 and Godbold Street for \$29,544, and on Hwy 76 for \$45,370. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION FROM MARION POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Brady stated that the police department is proposing a new Bolawrap device to possibly take the place of tasers. Captain Bobby Jones discussed the benefits and disadvantages of the device. Chief Tony Flowers noted that there is a lot of liability associated with the use of tasers which is considered a lethal weapon. The Bolawrap is a painless non-lethal weapon. The officers provided a live demonstration of how the device works, and answered questions from Council. Captain Jones noted the advantages of this device in dealing with those who have mental health issues. He stated that the device costs about \$924 each.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

City Administrator Alan Ammons stated that there is a need to plant trees throughout the City. He stated that Councilman Baker suggested a program of working with local funeral homes to plant trees in memory of citizens. The family can purchase the tree to be planted in

memory of their loved one. A tag will be placed on the tree with the name of the person, and it will remain with the tree for its lifetime. Councilman Baker asked that all council members be involved in preparing a list of where trees are needed.

Mr. Ammons stated that a pre-bid meeting on the Green Street Sports Complex was held today. He noted that four contractors were in attendance. The bids for this project are due on August 29. Mr. Ammons also stated that the CDBG grant application for the fire truck is due on August 25.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

There was no legal update from City Attorney James Brogdon.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FOR COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilman Michael Baker had no update.

Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that there are trees hanging over the bank at Catfish Creek and needs to be cleaned up. Mayor Brady stated that the trackhoe can be used to pull out the trees and clear the area.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson had no update.

Mayor Pro tem Emerson Hunt thanked Chief Flowers for all he does, and the efforts of the entire police department.

Councilman Donny Gerald had no update.

Police Chief Tony Flowers stated that there were several reports of shots fired in June. There were 0 reports in July, and only 1 so far in August. He noted that recent arrests have slowed down incidents. There will be a National Night Out event held in October.

Fire Chief JT Bass noted that the fire department is fully staffed. He reported that there were recently 2 significant in the City of Marion.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Ashley Brady

City Clerk Lakesha Y. Shannon