

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held by Marion City Council on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in which Mayor Ashley Brady presided. Council members Ronald Atkinson, Michael Baker, Donny Gerald, Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, and Tassie Lewis were present. Councilman Joseph Frazier was 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 Tony Flowers.

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 THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2022:

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to approve the minutes of the public hearing and regular city council meeting held on November 8, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and carried unanimously.

NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

Mayor Ashley Brady named the entire city staff that assisted with all the recent Christmas events and decorations as employees of the month. He noted all the hard work and

dedication from staff in decorating downtown, as well as setting up and working during the Christmas Tree Lighting event.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #22-12 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #22-11 AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CERTAIN HOURS OF OPERATION IN CORE COMMERCIAL BUSINESS ZONE:

Mayor Brady explained that the recently adopted Ordinance #22-11 did not take into consideration New Years events that may be held by businesses in the core commercial business zone. The amended Ordinance #22-12 will allow for businesses to remain open until 1:00 am to host events that would like to bring in the new year.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to approve 1st reading of Ordinance 22-12 **An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #22-11 An Ordinance Prohibiting Certain Hours of Operation in Core Commercial Business Zone.** The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SECTION 504/ADA COMPLIANCE PLAN:

Mr. Alan Ammons explained that an ADA Compliance Plan is required to allow the City to apply for grants through the Council of Governments and Department of Commerce.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt Section 504/ADA Compliance Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, and carried unanimously.

BIDS ON GREEN STREET SPORTS COMPLEX:

Mayor Brady stated that the City is currently working with Alliance Consulting Engineers to assist with the bidding process for the construction of the new Green Street Sports Complex. The project was advertised and 4 bids were received. The low bid that best met the specifications as recommended by Alliance Consulting Engineers for getting the playing fields ready was \$1,381,627.50 from D&L Sitework, Inc of Conway. Once approved they can start work to have the fields ready to play football and soccer in the fall of 2023. This bid does not include the LED lighting. He noted that Senator Kent Williams has committed \$100,000 towards the cost of the lighting, and \$50,000 of those funds have been received. The City will pursue grants and additional funding to complete the lighting and concession stands. Mayor Brady stated that the project is being funded by capital sales tax the City received in the amount of \$1,536,025.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson a motion to accept the bid from D&L Sitework, Inc as recommended by Alliance Consulting Engineers to construct the playing fields at the Green Street Sports Complex. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, and carried unanimously.

ADOPT RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE:

Mayor Brady stated that the retention schedule will establish the time frame for keeping city documents as set forth by the SC Department of Archives and History.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to approve the retention schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

APPROVE 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE:

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to adopt the 2023 City Council Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald, and carried unanimously.

BIDS ON IN-CAR CAMERAS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Mayor Brady stated that the City received a grant in the amount of \$32,130 to purchase 6 in-car cameras that will be mounted inside police cars. The City is also working on a grant to purchase additional bodycams. These in-car cameras will sync to the body cameras.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to approve the bid to purchase the in-car cameras from Motorola Solutions for the police department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Ms. Justine Roberts – Performing Arts & Science

Ms. Justine Roberts was present to address council regarding the recent Christmas Tree Lighting event. She expressed her concerns with her performing arts dance team not being allowed to perform at the event. She stated that after their last performance in 2019, she was advised by the program director that they would be unable to perform again due to their performance lasting past the allotted time scheduled. She stated that she had a large number of students that year which contributed to the longer performance time. She stated that the

students were very upset because they love this event and look forward to showcasing their talent to their parents and the community. She feels that it is not fair to the students nor herself as her facility is located in downtown Marion. She asked council to consider allowing her to perform in next year's Christmas Tree Lighting.

Mayor Brady stated that he spoke with Ms. Roberts prior to this year's event and advised her that the schedule was already completed by the program director. However, they would discuss her being added on next year. Ms. Roberts stated that she is here to receive approval for 2023 so that it may be added to her performance calendar. Mayor Brady stated that he will meet with the program director Mr. Morris Ward to discuss the 2023 event schedule and follow up with Ms. Roberts.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Alan Ammons stated that he spoke with Capital Waste Services regarding the holiday trash pickup and was advised that they would be on their regular schedule. He also noted that a large trash container will be placed at Grice's Recreation Center, Shannon Wilkerson Gym, and the old recycling center to allow citizens extra locations to dispose of holiday trash.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE:

City Attorney James Brogdon had no legal update.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FOR COUNCIL AND MAYOR:

Mayor Ashley Brady commented that the Christmas Tree Lighting was a great success and thanked everyone who attended. He noted that a video of drone footage from the event has been posted to Youtube and FaceBook. He also stated that the public works department is back working on edging and trimming throughout the City. He reported that Duke Energy has been contracted to change the lighting throughout the City to LED lights. This will allow for brighter lighting. The deadline for this project is March 2023. Mayor Brady asked that all light outages be reported to himself or Mr. Ammons so that they may notify Duke Energy.

Mayor Brady stated that annual Employee Christmas Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 16 at 12:30 pm at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym. He also reported that a \$500,000 grant was received to complete a storm water project in the area of Godbold Street to address the issue of flooding.

Mayor Brady provided an update on local Christmas toy drive events held by Mrs. Ellen Baldwin at Grice's Recreation Center and Mrs. Marilyn Woodberry at Bethlehem Baptist Church. Mayor Brady stated that the Santa mailbox is now located at city hall. Ms. Justine Roberts announced that she will also have a Christmas giveaway at the Performing Arts and Science Academy.

Councilman Michael Baker stated that he and Mr. Ammons met to discuss his concerns with the lighting issues.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson had no update.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt thanked Ms. Justine Roberts for all she does with her business on Main Street. He apologized that her and the students were not allowed to perform at the Christmas Tree Lighting. He also encouraged everyone to focus on a healthy lifestyle.

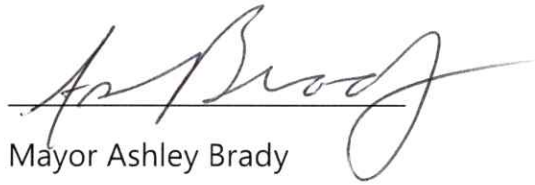
Councilwoman Tassie Lewis thanked everyone who participated in the 6th Annual Rise Above It All Coat Drive which was held at the Marion VFW Post. She noted that brand new coats were provided to the children as well as local daycares and adult daycare centers. She thanked everyone that hosts events to give back to the community. She also thanked Mayor Brady, Mr. Ammons and his church, and Friendship Baptist Church for being instrumental in supporting the annual coat drive. Councilwoman Lewis asked everyone to be safe during the holiday season.

Mayor Brady announced that the City would be doing its annual Christmas Food Box Giveaway on December 21. He asked that City Clerk Lakesha Shannon be contacted with any names of citizens in need.

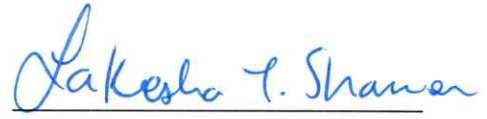
Councilman Donny Gerald had no comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt and seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The motion carried unanimously.



Mayor Ashley Brady



City Clerk Lakesha Y. Shannon