

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Donny Gerald
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	Tony Flowers, Police Chief
Lakesha Shannon, City Clerk	

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Brady acknowledged a moment of silence to honor the late Councilman Joseph Frazier. He then led pledge of allegiance and prayer.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed all guest.

4. APPROVE MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2023

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting held on February 14, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

5. FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mayor Brady recognized Mitchell Bennett as the February Employee of the Month. He noted that Mitchell operates the grapple truck for the Public Works

Department, and is a very versatile employee. He thanked him for all that he does for the City of Marion.

6. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION – CLINTON MASONIC LODGE

Mayor Brady expressed his appreciation on behalf of the City of Marion to the Clinton Masonic Lodge, as they will be celebrating their 200th building anniversary and rededication on March 18, 2023. Lodge member Jonathan Atkinson was presented a Resolution of Appreciation from the City of Marion.

7. PRESENTATIONS – HEALTHCARE PARTNERS OF SC

Mr. Cregory Adams, Ms. Cyndrea Mason, and Ms. Getrude Stoney were present to provide helpful information regarding the services offered by Healthcare Partners of SC. Ms. Mason highlighted details about the Marketplace Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment for Medicaid benefits. She noted that the applicant verifications will begin on April 1, 2023. Ms. Stoney stated that she is a licensed SC social worker, and provides behavioral health counseling services in Marion County and Johnsonville for clients starting at age 4. She is available for appointments at the local Healthcare Partners of SC office in Marion. Mayor Brady stated that Healthcare Partners does a lot to support the City of Marion.

8. 1ST READING ON ORDINANCE 23-01 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY OF MARION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO SOUTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE SERVICES; TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE LOCAL REVENUE SERVICE PROGRAMS; TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ONE OR MORE PARTICIPANT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING

Mayor Ashley Brady explained that the City of Marion participates in insurance revenue collections services through the Municipal Association of SC. The program recently changed their name to Local Revenue Services, and would like for all participating cities to adopt this ordinance in support of the change.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve Ordinance #23-01. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and carried unanimously.

9. APPROVE BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS OPEN AIR SHELTER

Mayor Brady stated that bids were received last month for an open-air shelter at the public works building. The bid advertisement did not specify metal shelters only; therefore, the project was bid out again to include metal shelters specifically. Mr. Alan Ammons added that the low bid was received from Patrick Brady Construction for \$41,999. Mayor Brady stated that he would abstain from this discussion and not vote, as Patrick Brady is his brother.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve the bid from Patrick Brady Construction at \$41,999. The motion was seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald, and carried unanimously.

10. PROPOSALS FOR GREEN STREET BALL FIELD LIGHTING

Mayor Brady provided a brief overview of the proposal for LED lighting at the new Green Street Sports Complex that is currently under construction. Mr. Ammons stated that bids were received from two contractors, Premier Sports Lighting at \$402,000 and Musco at \$513,500. He noted that they both had national competitive pricing. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald***

Atkinson to approve the low bid of \$402,000 from Premier Sports Lighting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt requested that the city ensure that the names of former councilman Ralph Atkinson, and the late councilman Joseph Frazier be included on the founding members plaque at the facility.

Mr. Ammons provided an overview of the funding for the project. He stated that \$1.5 million is the cost for the construction and engineering. He and Mayor Brady has been working closely with the Marion County Healthcare Foundation to secure a donation of \$402,000 to cover the expenses for the LED lighting. Mr. Ammons stated that the cost of \$185,000 for the concession stands and restrooms, and \$250,000 for the indoor batting facility has not been factored into the budget as of yet. He stated that financing options to consider would be a hospitality tax bond, the city borrowing from itself, or applying for a long-term USDA loan for up to 30 years at 4%. Mayor Brady suggested that council explore financing options and further discuss next month.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Alan Ammons had no additional items to report.

12. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

13. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady:

Mayor Brady stated that the Annual City Employee Banquet will be held on March 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm at Woodhaven Banquet Hall. He stated that construction is ongoing at the Green Street Sports Complex. He also noted that 85% of the Duke Energy street light project is complete. The Public Works Department is busy cutting grass throughout the city.

Councilman Michael Baker:

Councilman Baker thanked Mayor Brady for sending out the memo enforcing the importance of communicating incidents that happen in the city with Council.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson:

Councilman Ronald Atkinson asked for an update on the status of the old Piggly Wiggly building on North Main Street where outdoor church services are being held. He expressed his concerns with the noise levels. The city has received some complaints of noise from that property which were referred to Chief Flowers. Council had a lengthy discussion on the concerns and ways to possibly address this issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt:

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt thanked everyone for coming and commented on the importance of heart health. He also expressed his condolences for the loss of Councilman Joseph Frazier.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis:

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that any community issues the city decides to regulate or mandate needs to be documented in writing to protect the city. She asked that citizens continue to look out for seniors and children in the community. She noted some upcoming community events to include: the Fox84 Initiative organization Annual 5K Walk/Run event on May 6, and the True Queens Motorcycle Club Crime Awareness event on April 8 in one of the city's public housing communities. Councilwoman Lewis stated that she has received complaints of overgrown property's and she will provide a list to Mr. Ammons. In closing, she expressed her condolences and spoke on the life and contributions of the late Councilman Joseph Frazier.

Councilman Donny Gerald:

Councilman Donny Gerald asked for an update on the truck parking concerns on Manning Street. Mr. Ammons stated that they are still working to possibly secure a parking area at the corner of Metal Road and Senator Gasque Road. He stated that he continues to receive complaints and is actively working with the county to find a resolution to the issue. Following a lengthy discussion of the truck parking concerns, Mr. Ammons stated that he will write a letter and work with Interim County Administrator Chavis Watford to address the concerns.

A motion was made by Councilman Donny Gerald to write a letter to Marion County regarding the issue of truck parking. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Legal Matter
- Personnel Matter – Recreation Department

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to go into Executive Session to discuss a Legal matter, and a Personnel Matter regarding the Recreation Department. The motion carried unanimously.

15. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Brady stated that there was no action taken during executive session.

16. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk