

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed all citizens and guest.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- Regular City Council Meeting – June 13, 2023
- Public Hearing Meeting – June 29, 2023

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting held on June 13, 2023, and the public hearing meeting held on June 29, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

5. JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mayor Brady recognized Mr. Shawn Nichols with the Public Works Department as the June Employee of the Month. He thanked Shawn for all the great work he does in the department.

6. 2nd READING ON ORDINANCE 23-06 AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING DISTURBING NOISES

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve 2nd reading of Ordinance 23-06 An Ordinance Prohibiting Disturbing Noises.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt asked if there is a criminal enforcement element included in the ordinance. He questioned how the ordinance will be enforced, and if violations would be documented on a person’s criminal record. Chief Tony Flowers explained that any noise violations outside of this ordinance can be addressed under the Breach of Peace section of the city ordinance. Attorney James Brogdon added that any violations to the ordinance would be criminal as it violates the law, but handled as civil because the only punishment would be a fine. Any punishment beyond the fine would be the decision of the court. Mayor Pro Tem Hunt expressed his concerns regarding how the ordinance will be enforced. ***Following discussion, the motion was passed 6-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt voting no.***

7. APPROVE BIDS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT MINI CUTTERS

Mayor Brady stated that the mini cutters would be used by the fire department to gain access to buildings, and etc as needed. He noted that the cutters will be purchased from Spartan Fire and Emergency Apparatus which is a sole source provider. The cost of the mini cutters is \$11,996.34, and will purchased with

funding received from a V-SAFE Grant. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the purchase of the mini cutters for \$11,996.34 from Spartan Fire and Emergency Apparatus. The motion carried unanimously.***

Mayor Brady commended the fire department on all the recent grants they have received.

8. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Alan Ammons provided an update on the Green Street Sports Complex, and stated that the project completion date is still on schedule. The bid specifications for the concession stands and restrooms have been advertised, and the bids are due by July 17. Mr. Ammons also reported that the City Hall Renovation Project has been rebid, and bids are due by July 28.

9. CITY ATTORNEY’S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

10. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilman Michael Baker:

Councilman Baker had no comments.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson:

Councilman Atkinson had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt:

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt encouraged all citizens to stay hydrated and be safe in the high temperatures.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis:

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that she received a complaint of a tree falling on a street in her district on June 22, and all the debris has not yet been

removed. The property owner is also awaiting clarification on whether the tree belongs to the city. Councilwoman Lewis also asked if Duke Energy would trim the limbs from the power lines in that area. Mr. Ammons stated that he spoke with Duke Energy and they advised him that this incident has been reported. He also stated that the tree was on private property and not city property.

Councilwoman Lewis stated that she has received several calls and text messages asking if the City of Marion is tearing down Johnakin Middle School. She stated that she has no knowledge of this and there has been no discussion of this matter by council. She advised them to contact their school board district member.

Councilman Donny Gerald:

Councilman Gerald had no comments.

Councilman Fred Gause:

Councilman Gause asked for an update on the LED street light upgrade project. Mr. Ammons stated that the project is about 95% complete. He asked that any light issues be reported to him so that he can forward it to Duke Energy.

Councilman Gause also received a call from a resident regarding an issue of water being drained into her yard from a neighbor's pool. Mr. Ammons stated that he has been made aware of this issue and has asked the code enforcement officer to monitor that property to address any further issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt:

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt commented on a recent shooting that took place in the city in which stray bullets hit the home of a neighbor. He expressed his concerns with this type of activity and suggested that the city consider landlord nuisance laws as a way to address this.

Mayor Ashley Brady:

Mayor Brady stated that they recently had a zoom call with Verizon to discuss surveillance cameras and license plate readers for the city. Chief Flowers is scheduled to have a follow-up meeting with Verizon, and additional information will be provided to council once the quotes are received.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.***

Mayor Ashley Brady

Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk