

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 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 Brady led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed all citizens and guest.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- Regular City Council Meeting – May 9, 2023
- Budget Workshop – May 30, 2023

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting held on May 9, 2023, and the budget workshop meeting held on May 30, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Mayor Brady recognized Agent Bobby Davis with the Marion Police Department as the May Employee of the Month. He thanked Agent Davis for all his hard work and dedication to the City of Marion.

6. **APPOINT MEMBER TO THE GRAND STRAND WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mayor Brady stated that the City will need to appoint a member to the Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority Advisory Committee to serve a 3-year term. He stated that the committee meets quarterly at their Conway office and the appointed member would need to attend. He noted that this is a volunteer position. Mayor Brady asked council to submit recommendations for this appointment as soon as possible.

7. **1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 23-05 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND RATES FOR
SANITATION SERVICES**

Mayor Brady stated that this ordinance will amend the sanitation rates as approved in the recent council budget workshop. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #23-05 An Ordinance to Amend Rates for Sanitation Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and carried unanimously.***

8. **1ST READING ON ORDINANCE 23-06 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF
MARION NOISE ORDINANCE**

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that Attorney James Brogdon provided council with the draft ordinance and discussed the suggested changes at last month's council meeting. Attorney Brogdon stated that he has included an exemption in the

ordinance for city sponsored events. He asked that council provide him with any additional suggestions prior to second reading. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt requested that council consider an exemption for moving noise. This ordinance will be further discussed prior to the final reading.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #23-06 An Ordinance to Amend the City of Marion Noise Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

9. SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Police Chief Tony Flowers discussed the need to install new surveillance cameras throughout the city to monitor suspicious activity in high crime areas, as well as the safety of city properties to include the gyms, the maintenance shop, ball fields and the swimming pool area. Chief Flowers provided council with some pricing quotes he received and discussed options for purchasing the equipment. He noted the need for Wi-Fi service to ensure the cameras work properly. He stated that these cameras could be an extra eye to address drug activity and criminal activity via a live feed. Chief Flowers stated that they have had issues with the current cameras over the past 9 months, and at this time there is no surveillance available. Council discussed the option of solar panel cameras versus battery operated cameras. They also discussed the option of installing the HTC system at all the major city intersections, and license tag readers at all city entrances/exits. Councilman Baker asked that staff get feedback from other cities regarding what type of surveillance camera equipment they are using. Councilman Baker also asked if the police officers have access to view the housing authority surveillance cameras while patrolling. Chief Flowers stated

that they have access to the housing authority cameras at the police station; however, the officers are unable to view live feeds of those cameras while they are patrolling.

10. REQUEST TO SELL SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Administrator Alan Ammons noted that the new street sweeper is currently in operation. He then stated that the City has the following surplus items that they would like to sell:

- Old Street Sweeper
- 2009 Ford Pickup Truck
- 2001 Police Car
- 2004 Police Car

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to place these surplus items on GovDeals for sale. The motion was seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald, and carried unanimously.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

➤ **Update on Green Street Sports Complex**

Mr. Ammons reported that the sod has been placed, the grass is starting to turn green, and the parking lot is paved at the new sports complex. He noted that construction is on schedule to allow for an official opening day with soccer in September 2023. Bids will be advertised for the construction of the concession stands next month. Mr. Ammons also reported that a pre-bid meeting was recently held for the city hall upgrade project, and only one contractor was in attendance. He noted that bids are due on June 26, and the total project cost is around \$600,000.

➤ **Discussion on Facility Rental**

Mr. Ammons presented council with the revised city facility rental rates as requested in last month's meeting. He stated that all out-of-town rates were increased by \$100, and all in-city rates were increased by \$50. The hourly rate for security and custodial services were also increased. He asked that council review the changes and make any additional suggestions prior to approval. Mr. Ammons stated that the City is looking to offer swimming lessons at the city pool this year. There would be a children's class during the morning, and an adult class in the afternoon. There is an in-town instructor who is interested in providing the service, and the city will advertise the lessons over the next couple weeks to gain an idea of interest.

12. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

15. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady:

Mayor Brady stated that the Green Street Sports Complex concession stand bids should be advertised over the next 30 days and should be available by the next council meeting. He thanked Representative Lucas Atkinson and Senator Kent Williams for securing \$750,000 to construct a new city/county training center for police and fire. He noted that the city grant writing process is going well, and some funding updates are expected within the next 30 days. Baseball and softball camps have started at the Green Street Park. Fire Chief Kevin Hammond and the Marion Fire Department, along with other local fire departments held a fire prevention awareness event at Amazing Grace Park today. He noted that the

children had a great time and were able to do hands on activities with the fire trucks. Mayor Brady stated that the city pool is now open.

Councilman Michael Baker:

Councilman Baker had no comments.

Councilman Fred Gause:

Councilman Gause 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 healthy. He stated that he received additional concerns regarding the restrooms at Grice’s Recreation Center, but council has already discussed plans to address this issue.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis:

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis thanked everyone who attended the meeting. She commented on the importance of continuing to provide training and activities for the children in this community. She asked that citizens continue to look out for their neighbors, and report any suspicious activity.

Mr. Alan Ammons stated that the new City of Marion police department app was highlighted in a statewide magazine. Mayor Brady also noted that the city’s fire department was highlighted in an article for performing an animal rescue.

Councilman Donny Gerald:

Councilman Gerald had no comments.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to go into executive session to discuss a Personnel Matter – Employee Compensation, and a

Contractual Matter – Marion County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

17. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to return to regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald, and carried unanimously. Mayor Brady stated that there was no action taken during executive session.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.***

Mayor Ashley Brady

Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk