

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady

Councilman Fred Gause

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

Councilman Donny Gerald

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator

Patricia Brown, City Treasurer

Lakesha Shannon, City Clerk

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. WORKSHOP FOR PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

➤ **Stormwater Budget**

Mayor Brady stated that the proposed Stormwater Budget is \$191,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025. He noted that this budget funds the maintenance and supplies for the public works vacuum truck and mini excavator which helps to keep the storm drains clean in the city.

➤ **Hospitality Tax Budget**

Mayor Brady stated that the 2024-2025 proposed Hospitality Tax Budget is \$470,000, which is very similar to last fiscal year's budget. He noted that some additional projects added to this budget include:

- Replacement of the doors at the Opera House

- Renovations to the bathrooms in the foyer area of CD Joyner Auditorium to include new flooring and paint.

Councilman Fred Gause asked if the Grice's Recreation swimming pool repairs have been completed. Mr. Alan Ammons will check on the status and follow up.

➤ **ARP Budget**

Mayor Brady stated that there is an additional \$1.8 million left in the ARP Budget. This budget will be used to complete several projects to include:

- \$125,000 for housing demolition
- \$35,000 for employee Christmas bonuses
- \$80,000 audio/visual equipment for the council chambers
- Public Works Department equipment, trucks, and shed
- Police Department computers and cages for cars, and advanced tasers
- \$350,000 down payment on Fire Department ladder truck
- Green Street Park concession stand and restrooms, shelters and picnic tables, new roof on Pepsi building

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt suggested that additional funding be allocated to install a fence behind the police department for safety. Mayor Brady also recommended that additional LED lighting be installed in that area. Councilman Fred Gause suggested that an additional Flock Falcon mobile camera be included in the budget. Councilman Ronald Atkinson recommended a portable camera/digital billboard to address littering.

➤ **General Fund Budget**

Mayor Brady stated that the 2024-2025 general fund budget is balanced at \$7,523,895, with \$496,000 allocated for expenditures. Mayor Pro Tem Hunt recommended metal detectors for the council chambers doors. Council had a lengthy discussion regarding charges from the county to house inmates on

municipal charges. Mayor Brady recommended a daily rate of \$55, but stated that this matter would be further discussed in executive session. Council discussed the millage rate increase which is recommended at 2.8 mills to cover the housing of inmates, and the purchase of 2 new police cars.

3. SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held on June 27, 2024 at 5:15 to allow for public comments on the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

➤ Contractual Matter – Marion County

A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to go into executive session to discuss a Contractual Matter regarding Marion County. The motion passed unanimously.

5. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause and seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

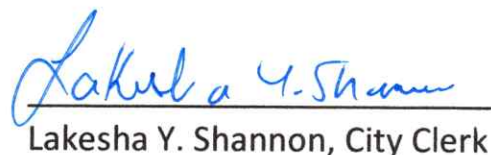
Mayor Brady stated that there was no action taken during executive session.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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



Mayor Ashley Brady



Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk