

**MINUTES**  
**MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Ashley Brady

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilman Donny Gerald

Councilman Fred Gause

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Alan Ammons, City Administrator

Patricia Brown, City Treasurer

Lakesha Shannon, City Clerk

Tony Flowers, Police Chief

James Brogdon, City Attorney

**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 – June 11, 2024

➤ Public Hearing/Special Meeting – June 27, 2024

***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting, and the June 27, 2024 Public Hearing/Special Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.***

**5. JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Mayor Brady named Robert Graham, City Code Enforcement Officer as the June Employee of the Month. He thanked Robert for all the hard work he does for the City of Marion.

**6. PRESENTATIONS****➤ Marcus Robinson/BOOST Program – Proposal for After School Program**

Marcus Robinson, Founder of the BOOST Program and his assistant Shakira Gilchrist presented a proposal to council for the use of classrooms at CD Joyner Auditorium to sponsor an afterschool program for the youth. Mrs. Gilchrist provided an overview of the BOOST program and stated that its growth has led to the need for more space to accommodate the children. With the new afterschool program they will bring in speakers from the following industries: military recruiters from all branches of service, mechanics, law enforcement and emergency personnel, nurses, CPR instructors, and bankers. They will also provide sessions on job interview readiness and proper dress code, as well as various sessions to teach basic life skills. Mayor Brady commended Mr. Robinson for all he does to work with the youth in this community. He stated that he will work with Recreation Director Chasity Samuels to accommodate the request for classroom space at CD Joyner to host the afterschool program. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis to approve the proposed request from Marcus Robinson to use classrooms at CD Joyner Auditorium for the BOOST Afterschool Program. The motion passed unanimously.***

**7. APPROVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS****➤ Planning Commission – Al Blake and Chris Stepp**

*A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to approve the appointment of Al Blake and Chris Stepp to the Planning Commission. The motion passed unanimously.*

**8. 2<sup>nd</sup> READING ORDINANCE 24-06 AN ORDINANCE TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY**

*A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilwoman Michael Baker to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance #24-06 An Ordinance to Purchase Real Property. The motion passed unanimously.*

**9. APPROVE JPK CONTRACTORS FOR FIRE TRAINING BUILDING PROJECT/STATE GRANT FUNDS**

Mayor Brady stated that Representative Lucas Atkinson was instrumental in helping the City obtain a \$250,000 grant to assist with the construction of a fire training center. The project is now ready for construction and the City's down payment cost is \$137,742.75. *A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause to approve the bid of \$137,742.75 from JPK Contractors for the Fire Training Building Project which will be paid with state grant funding. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and carried unanimously.*

**10. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Alan Ammons provided an update on the capital sales tax projects. The city hall upgrades are ongoing, and the concession stand and restrooms are being constructed at the Green Street Sports Complex. The lighting contractor will continue work at the sports complex on next week, and staff will be trained on how to use the lighting. Mr. Ammons requested that a

public hearing be scheduled for August 13, 2024 at 6:15 pm to receive public comments on Ordinance #24-05 An Ordinance to Create a Planned Development District Located at 1108 N. Main St., Marion, SC prior to the second reading.

**11. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE**

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

**12. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR**

**Mayor Ashley Brady**

Mayor Brady thanked Councilman Fred Gause for hosting the recent crime awareness meeting. He reiterated that law enforcement needs the community's help in addressing crime, so if you see something say something. Mayor Brady stated that an additional Flock security camera will be installed in the City. Police Chief Tony Flowers has organized a National Night Out Crime Awareness Event for August 6, 2024 at the Main Street Commons. The Franklin and Marshall Street Stormwater Projects will be bid out on August 20, 2024 by the Pee Dee Council of Governments. Fire Chief Kevin Hammond was notified today that the City was awarded a \$25,000 grant from Firehouse Subs to purchase 8 new sets of turnout gear for the fulltime fireman. Mayor Brady stated that he and Mr. Ammons recently met with Senator Kent Williams and the Department of Resilience to discuss the \$2.5 million dollar grant the City was awarded to perform the Catfish Creek Restoration Project. He noted that this will likely be a long-term project due to the involvement of several entities.

**Councilman Michael Baker:**

Councilman Baker reiterated Mayor Brady's request that that citizens contact law enforcement if they have any knowledge of crime activity.

**Councilman Fred Gause:**

Councilman Gause thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked Mr. Marcus Robinson and his staff for the positive programs and the wonderful work they do with the youth in this community. Councilman Gause thanked the Mayor for attending and supporting his recent crime awareness event. He stated that the City will continue its work to make the community safe. He also commended the police department for all they do to solve crimes in this community.

**Councilman Ronald Atkinson:**

Councilman Atkinson commented on the recent car break-ins happening in the English Park area. Mayor Brady stated that the suspects have been arrested. Councilman Atkinson also asked for an update on the Jones Ave Roundabout Project. Mr. Ammons stated that the project is scheduled to be completed in 2027.

**Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt**

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt thanked Councilman Gause for a great job in hosting his recent crime awareness event. He also thanked Mr. Marcus Robinson for all he does with his programs to support the youth.

**Councilwoman Tassie Lewis:**

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis thanked everyone for attending. She also thanked Mr. Marcus Robinson for all he does to support the youth. She shared her ideas for a future program for the youth. This program would focus on 3 initiatives which include the cemetery, the morgue and prison. She would like to plan an activity that would allow the youth to experience these 3 areas first hand. She stated that a signed liability form would be required for participation. The City

will have more details forthcoming regarding the legality of this proposed initiative.

**Councilman Donny Gerald:**

Councilman Gerald thanked everyone for attending, and thanked Councilman Gause for hosting his recent crime awareness event. He thanked the police department for all of their hard work in protecting the community.

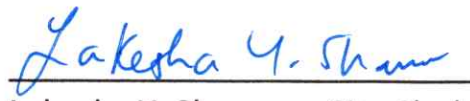
Mayor Brady announced that the City of Marion Fire Department was recognized for the 2023 Fire Safe Community Designation.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Ashley Brady



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk