

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, December 16, 2024, at 5:00PM**

The Marion City Council met in regular session on December 16, 2024, with Mayor Browning presiding. The council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Taylor Davis, Dwight Sherer, Bobby Belt and Michael Byford. City Employees present were Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer, City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield, City Treasurer Layten Croft, Administrative Assistant Cortny Cosby, Police Chief West, Jeff Black, Greg Tabor, Fire Chief Red Howton, and Code Enforcement Officer Rick Mills.

General Government

A motion was made by Councilman Bobby Belt, seconded by Councilwoman Wanda Olson to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 18, 2024. All council members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Jeff Walker with Walker and Associates was in attendance and presented the 2023-24 City of Marion Audit to the Mayor and City Council. He advised the independent audit performed did not find any issues with the city's finances. Mr. Walker then went through the audit and requested questions from the Mayor and Council. Councilman Sherer advised he noticed a decrease in expenditures in the General Fund, Mr. Walker confirmed that to be correct adding the general fund expenses are under control. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wanda Olson to accept the audit report, seconded by Councilman Randy Dunn. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer then read Resolution 24-09 entitled, "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARION ACCEPTING THE FUNDING, APPROVING THE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF MARION'S ANNUAL BUDGET, AND AUTHORIZING A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS". A motion was made by Councilman Bobby Belt to pass Resolution 24-09, seconded by Councilwoman Wanda Olson. All council members voted yes; motion carried.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield explained to the Mayor and Council there was an error in the numbering of Ordinance's 24-02 and 24-03, both being used twice. Mrs. Ford-Benningfield is requesting the council approval of the renumbering of 24-02a and 24-03a. A motion was made by Councilman Taylor Davis to renumber said ordinances, seconded by Councilman Dwight Sherer. All councilmembers voted yes; motion carried.

Councilman Mike Byford made a motion to approve the Mayoral Appointment of Jason Hatfield and Andrea Clements to the City of Marion KY Tourism Board, seconded by Randy Dunn. Councilman Bobby Belt requested to know if both have agreed to serve on the board, Mayor Browning advised yes. All councilmembers voted yes; motion carried.

Code Enforcement Officer, Rick Mills, then approached the Mayor and Council with an update on the code enforcement cases within Marion. He advised that he has 26 properties with issues at this time. Councilman Dwight Sherer requested to know if the Code Enforcement Board is aware of the 26 properties, Mr. Mills advised no, he did not want to "overload" them. Councilman Belt and Councilwoman Olson then advised of properties that needed to be inspected by Mr. Mills including properties on Pierce Street, Bridwell Loop, East Depot Street specifically the property located next to Scott Tabor.

The swearing in of the newly elected council members then took place within the Council Chambers. The new councilmembers sworn in as follows, Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Nikki Conger, Taylor Davis, Dwight Sherer and Bobby Belt.

Mayor Browning then made a special presentation in honor of Michael Byford and the 33 years of service to the Marion City Council.

Other Business

Mayor Browning reminded the council and public that the meeting in January 2025 would be the second Monday of the month due to Martin Luther King Day, which was changed by ordinance in the past.

Councilman Dwight Sherer expresses this appreciation to retiring city workers, City Clerk Pam Enoch and Councilman Mike Byford.

Councilman Bobby Belt requested an update on the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. City Administrator Ford-Benningfield advised that Alan Robinson with Eclipse Engineering would be present at the January meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion was made by Councilman Byford, seconded by Councilman Belt to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07PM.


D'Anna Browning, Mayor


ATTEST: Layten Croft, Asst. City Clerk