

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, July 15, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.**

The Marion City Council met in Regular Session on July 15, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Taylor Davis, Bobby Belt, Dwight Sherer and Mike Byford. City Employees in attendance were as follows: Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Pam Enoch, Chief Bobby West, Jeff Black, Ronald Howton and Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer. A public sign-in sheet is attached and made part of these minutes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Paul Beard approached Mayor Browning and the Council to voice his concerns about a hole in the roadway near his home on Leland Ave. He advised the deteriorating of the roadway, in his opinion, has been caused due to the contractor's slip lining the sewer lines. Mayor Browning requested that the maintenance department place an orange safety cone on/near the hole.

Scott Tabor, a resident at 727 E Depot Street, came before the council and Mayor and addressed the dilapidated house next to his residence. He advised there is trash in the basement, no windows, no doors in the home. He advised he is tired of living next to the home. Mayor Browning advised the city had written a letter to the homeowner in January of 2024. Mayor then asked Chief West to issue a citation to the homeowner. Mayor Browning advised that there was a state inspector coming to Marion to address several houses that needed to be condemned and she would add this one to the list.

A motion was made by Taylor Davis, seconded by Randy Dunn to approve the meeting minutes from June 17th, 2024. All council members voted yes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Dwight Sherer, seconded by Wanda Olson to approve the mayor's appointment of Barbara Browning to the Code Enforcement Board for a two-year term expiring 7/17/26. All council members voted yes; motion carried.

A motion was made by Mike Byford, seconded by Wanda Olson to approve the surplus of the Case 580L backhoe/loader s/n JIG0231757 to trade it in for the mini excavator. McKeel is offering a \$5,000.00 trade in credit. All council members voted yes; motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer reads, Resolution #24-04 entitled, "AUTHORIZING A REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE WHETHER CANNABIS BUSINESS OPERATIONS MAY OCCUR IN THE CITY OF MARION". Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer advised if the City chooses to do nothing, it will be legal in January 2025. He advised another option would be for the City Council to vote upon the issue and the third option would be to place the question on the ballot in November and let the citizens of Marion choose. He advised the Crittenden County Fiscal Court made the decision to place the question on the ballot. County Clerk Tabor advised a decision would have to be made by August if the city would like it to be on the ballot in November. A motion was made by Wanda Olson, seconded by Randy Dunn to pass Resolution #24-04, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

Mayor Browning reads, Resolution #24-05 entitled, "THE MARION KIND". Which declares the week of August 4-10th Kindness Week. A motion by Bobby Belt, seconded by Wanda Olson to pass Resolution # 24-05, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

A discussion was then held on the city ordinance's pertaining to a Manufactured Home Park. Legal Service Officer Frazer explained the differences between certain models of manufactured homes. Chief West requested that the city get an updated zoning map.

Alan Robinson with Eclipse Engineering gave the Mayor and Council an in-depth update on the new wastewater treatment plant. He advised that on June 19th the plant started getting flow and everything passed the "eyeball" test. He advised this plant should not get violations like the old plant did/does. He advised that we should be seeing lab results within the next few days. He advised that the contractors still had a lot to do to finish the cosmetics of the building. He advised that he is going to push the contractors hard to get them finished. Dwight Sherer asked for a finish date, Alan advised that he is going to write a letter to The Walker Company to get them to finish by September. Mike Byford requested to know if we would still be using the old plant, Alan said no. Mayor Browning asked how many years the city has to demolition the old sewer plant. Alan answered with, as soon as possible. He then advised that the state would require that there be no liquid present at the old plant. Dwight Sherer requested that the city have a ribbon cutting at the new plant.

Mr. Tim Thomas then gave the Mayor and Council an update on the Lake George Rehabilitation Project. He advised that the city did get the extension on the Declaration of Emergency which would end in December of 2024. He advised that the contractors have had their fair share of challenges with this project. He advised that divers were placed in the water a few weeks ago and the plate over the intake was very much in place, but that the pipe had developed a new hole. He then spoke briefly on the siphon project and how the contractors and engineers are working on a plan to cut into the dam. He advised it is very important for there to be a dry stretch of weather before there was any cutting into the dam for the siphon. He advised that the city would coordinate with Crittenden Livingston Water District and its citizens before any cut/drainage of the lake was made. He assured the council and Mayor that the city is in better shape with stored water than it was when the original breach was made into the dam.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Browning advised that she would be having lunch with the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife on Thursday.

Mike Byford advised that the timing is off on the stoplight, again, at Bellville and Main.

Bobby Belt requested an update on the replacement of stop signs. Diane Ford-Benningfield advised that six had been replaced so far.

Dwight Sherer addressed the danger of the intersection at College and Depot Streets.

Wanda Olson gave praise to the Police Department for doing their best cleaning up the City of Marion.

Randy Dunn requested that city maintenance look at the potholes on Chapel Hill Road.

Mike Byford asked that Nora Street no longer be a one-way street.

Wanda Olson advised that she thought that the stop lines at the new 4-way stop are too far back. She advised that she nearly witnessed an accident because of not being able to see past Duncan's Service Center.

Diane Ford-Benningfield spoke with the Mayor and Council about new fire department turnout gear and the possibility of using ARPA funds to buy four new sets. The council advised that they would come back to this request.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM.


D'ANNA BROWNING, MAYOR


ATTEST: PAM ENOCH, CITY CLERK