

Meeting of the Marion City Council

Monday, January 13, 2025, at 5:00 P.M

The Marion City Council met in regular session on January 13, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding.

Council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Taylor Davis, Dwight Sherer, Bobby Belt and Nikki Conger.

City Employees in attendance were as follows: Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Cortny Cosby, Chief Bobby West,

Rick Mills, Greg Tabor, Jeff Black and Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer.

Public Comments

Colby Davis approached the council to announce he will be purchasing a lot next to the City/ County Park for an indoor sports training facility. Colby explained he has partnered with a large gym franchise and several others to benefit this new gym in Crittenden County. Councilman Bobby Belt asked what type of travel teams we should expect to see. Colby replied several sports apart from volleyball due to the very sport specific requirements for volleyball including turf, 22ft ceilings, etc. Colby wanted to make it clear that this may possibly be a future addition to the gym. Councilman Dwight Sherer questioned what Colby's long-term goal would be for this gym. Colby replied that once he makes his money back, he plans to donate this gym to a government entity. Councilwoman Nikki Conger questioned if this would be a private gym. Colby stated this would be a public gym that will also offer Pediatric Occupational Therapy. Mayor Browning questioned when this project should begin. Colby stated that of course we are on government time, but he has a personal goal for July. Colby also stated that he has a meeting with Governor Andy Beshear April 11, 2025.

General Government

Mayor Browning was going to present Donnie Phelps of KU with the key to the city to show appreciation for his team's hard work and dedication to our town during the recent ice storm. Mayor Browning stated that Donnie may have missed the meeting due to dedication to his work. Mayor Browning plans to publicly present this key at a later date.

Mayor Browning explained several cities around us have converted their streetlights to LED to be more cost effective. Councilman Dwight Sherer requested that we review the numbers. Mayor Browning advised after about 4 years we will have made our money back in savings. Councilman Bobby Belt questioned what KU is asking for upfront. Mayor Browning asked if it would be cheaper to pay up front or to set up a payment plan, and went on to say that ideally, we would begin this process at the beginning of the next fiscal year. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield explained that currently there is no cost for us to call and gradually switch the lights out. Councilman Dwight Sherer questioned if this savings will be guaranteed, and how are they calculated. Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that based on other cities, statistically savings have been proven. Councilman Bobby Belt questioned the figures provided, the upfront cost and the benefits of a payment plan. Diane Ford-Benningfield advised that she will look into this information further. Mayor Browning requested that we reach out to other cities and asked Diane Ford-Benningfield to also contact KLC for more information regarding this.

A motion was made by councilman Randy Dunn, seconded by councilwoman Wanda Olson to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 16, 2024. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning recommended the council to appoint Kenny Patel to the City of Marion Tourism Board as a motel representative. Kenny would be replacing Kevin Maxfield's vacant seat until November of 2026. Motion made by councilwoman Wanda Olson, seconded by councilman Taylor Davis. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning requested the council to consider the surplus of a 2003 Ford Ranger damaged from the ice storm, VIN# 1FTYR10D13PA24255 with a mileage of 220,155. Councilman Bobby Belt asked if the vehicle runs. Greg Tabor responded that the vehicle would start, however the front end is completely caved in. Motion to surplus the 2003 Ford Ranger made by councilman Bobby Belt, seconded by councilman Dwight Sherer. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning presented Executive Order No. 25-02 EXECUTIVE ORDER RESCINDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-01 to inform everyone that the Executive Order is completed. The restoration of the dam is now complete, and we are currently in the maintenance stage.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Mills stated he was going around to perform a sweep up. The last Code Enforcement meeting was cancelled due to the governor declaring a state of emergency. Rick stated that he spoke with Dollar General via Skype regarding the citation. Rick stated that he was concerned about the trash bins at the trailer court owned by Mr. Williams. Chief West explained that Mr. Williams spoke to Ray O'Neal at City Hall, and he planned to take care of the trash bins.

Other business

Councilwoman Nikki Conger asked about the trees and limbs left from the storm. Diane Ford-Benningfield advised that the KY Department of Transportation and the electric company will return to handle the remaining debris they are responsible for.

Councilman Bobby Belt mentioned the storm debris pick up, and he would like to see this advertised in the Crittenden Press so that everyone is aware of this service. Mayor Browning agreed and stated that residents also have the option to burn the debris, adding that the burn ban begins February 15th, at this time Evan Cruce from the Marion Fire Department requested that a resident planning to burn should call dispatch and advise them of the controlled burn to avoid unnecessary calls.

Councilman Dwight Sherer mentioned how successful the pop-up sledding party was, hosted by the Mayor Saturday, January 11, 2025. Dwight also stated that he would like to see us as a community have something like this event again this spring. Colby Davis added that the sledding party would not have been possible without the new lights at the park.

Councilwoman Wanda Olson stated that citizens have been complaining about cars parked on both sides of Poplar St. Chief West stated that it was up to the city to designate parking on this street. Mayor Browning requested that we consider handicap citizens as we make this change.

Councilman Randy Dunn requested a status update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that the next step is to press the sludge for the first time later this week. Progress is being made; Alan Robinson will be coming in February. Mayor Browning stated that she reached out to the City of Eddyville and offered our facility during their current crisis related to their wastewater.

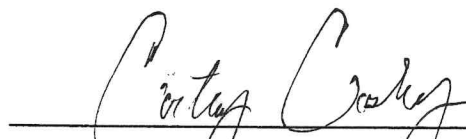
Mayor Browning added that she would like to wish the Lady Rockets good luck in their game tonight!

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Wanda Olson, seconded by Randy Dunn to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM.



D'Anna Browning, Mayor



ATTEST: Cortny Cosby, City Clerk