

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, March 17, 2025, at 5:00 P.M**

The Marion City Council met in regular session on March 17, 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: Chief Bobby West, Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Cortny Cosby, Thomas Mason, Jeff Black, Garry Gerard, Greg Tabor, Tony Jackson, Anna Baker, Michelle Edwards and Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer.

Public Comments

Citizen Mike Harris stated that he has taken it upon himself to clean out the ditches and drains located around his residence, but did not complete this task before the two inches of rain we received this past weekend. Due to the stopped-up drains, water almost entered his home. Mr. Harris stated he is aware of an upcoming project that would correct this recurring issue, and questioned when the city will use the ARPA funds for this project. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that the project had already begun. Mr. Harris also stated that the price of eggs has recently dropped 40%. Mr. Harris added that the price of eggs is temporary, however chickens are permanent.

Citizen Sharon Bockman asked if the city was still doing debris pick up from the recent storm, and asked when they might pick hers up. Mayor Browning stated that the maintenance crew was working diligently on several projects, the debris pick up list was currently four pages long, but the maintenance team will get everyone on the list. Mrs. Bockman also stated that the 4-way intersection at Main St and Gum is dangerous, Mrs. Bockman stated you cannot see the south bound stop sign. Mayor Browning stated that she agreed but the current setbacks were made for semi's to be able to safely pull out. Chief Bobby West stated that it would help if Duncan's Service Center agreed to move vehicles to where there is more visibility at the intersection, Chief added that he will speak to the owner of Duncan's Service Center.

Citizen Karen Cruce-Smith requested the council to consider renaming the hill known as Wilson Hill to Cruce Hill to honor her late father, Richard Cruce. Mayor Browning stated that everyone loved Richard Cruce, this would be something to investigate. Council Member Taylor Davis stated that Mrs. Cruce-Smith may need to call the National Geological Society. Mayor Browning asked City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield to reach out to the National Geological Society.

General Government

A motion was made by Council Member Randy Dunn, seconded by Council Member Taylor Davis to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 10, 2025. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning presented the second reading of ORDINANCE #25-01 AMENDING CHAPTER 31 MAYOR-COUNCIL PLAN: MEETINGS. The amendment was to have all monthly meetings on the regularly scheduled third Monday of each month at 5:00 P.M., except for the month of January when the council will meet on the fourth Monday at 5:00 P.M. A motion to approve the second reading of ORDINANCE #25-01 AMENDING CHAPTER 31 MAYOR-COUNCIL PLAN: MEETINGS was made by Council Member Dwight Sherer, seconded by Council Member Wanda Olson. Roll call Randy Dunn; yes, Wanda Olson; yes, Taylor Davis; yes, Dwight Sherer; yes, Bobby Belt; yes, and Nikki Conger; yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning presented the first reading of ORDINANCE #25-02 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING MAP AMENDMENT, a zoning change for the land at the corner of Adam St and Old Morganfield Rd from agricultural district to general business district. Council Member Randy Dunn sponsored ORDINANCE #25-02 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING MAP AMENDMENT.

Mayor Browning presented Resolution #25-01. Mayor Browning stated that the Kentucky Department of Transportation will be taking ownership of Country Club Dr and Industrial Dr due to the expensive upkeep over the years from heavy traffic. Council Member Dwight Sherer stated that the city has been requesting this for 8 years. Mayor Browning explained that the city requested a speed limit of 35 mph for this road, that would replace the current speed limit of 45 mph. Citizen Colby Davis stated that with a speed limit of 35 mph he requests a speed bump or possibly a traffic camera, Mr. Davis stated that semis drive fast through that area. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield states that these ideas have been discussed. Citizen Karen Cruce-Smith questioned if the road would have an overpass or underpass. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield responded neither, the only change will be added signs. Motion to

pass Resolution #25-01 was made by Council Member Taylor Davis, seconded by Council Member Wanda Olson. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield announced Resolution #2025-02 the Fair Housing Resolution for the Community Development Block Grant. Diane Ford-Benningfield stated the city will be using 100% of this grant for meter and line replacement, not for housing, passing this resolution is a requirement. Motion made to approve resolution 2025-02 the Fair Housing Resolution made by Council Member Dwight Sherer, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield announced Resolution 2025-03, Kentucky Community Development Block Grant Award. This resolution is to accept the 1.2 million dollars, as well as following the rules and regulations of the installations of the new water and meter lines. Diane Ford- Benningfield added that Marion is one of only two cities that received the CDBG grant. Council Member Bobby Belt questioned what about costs that would exceed budget. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield responded any additional cost would need to be approved by the council. Motion to approve resolution 2025-03, the Kentucky Community Development Block Grant Award made by Council Member Bobby Belt, seconded by Council Member Nikki Conger. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning announced the consideration of bid acceptance for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that was bid out in August 2023. The city received one bid, the bid was placed 08/25/2023 by Eclipse Engineering, PLLC for \$467,000. Motion to accept the bid placed by Eclipse Engineering for the Community Development Block Grant made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning asked the council to vote for Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Browning stated that Council Member Randy Dunn has served as Mayor Pro-Tem for the past 2 years. The council determined Council Member Randy Dunn would be the candidate for Mayor Pro-Tem. Motion to approve Council Member Randy Dunn as Mayor Pro-Tem was made by Council Member Taylor Davis, seconded by Council Member Dwight Sherer. All present voted yes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Browning recommended the appointment of Kelsey Berry to the open seat on the Code Enforcement Board for a 3-year term ending March 2028. Mayor Browning also recommended reappointing Larry Hurst and Barbara Browning for the two-year term ending in March 2027. Motion to appoint Kelsey Berry to the open seat and to reappoint Larry Hurst and Barbara Browning was made by Council Member Dwight Sherer, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning recommended the appointment of Callie Courtney to the Planning and Zoning Board for a four-year term ending in March 2029. Callie Courtney would be replacing Gary Boulos who resigned after serving on the board for several years. Motion to appoint Callie Courtney to the Planning and Zoning Board was made by Council Member Taylor Davis, seconded by Council Member Nikki Conger. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning began the discussion with the council regarding the Kentucky Department of Local Government Grant placement, this was to determine where the city will open a non-interest-bearing account for the Kentucky Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the 1.2-million-dollar grant. City Treasurer Layten Croft stated that the bank requires approved minutes to open the account. Council Member Dwight Sherer recommended Farmers Bank. Motion made to open the non-interest-bearing account for the CDBG at Farmers Bank was made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning began the discussion regarding the much-needed repairs to Free Will Rd, she stated that this road was terrible. Mayor Browning also requested a name change for this road. Mayor Browning stated that the city would like to rename and take ownership of Free Will Street also handling managing repairs. Motion was made to rename Free Will Rd by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Nikki Conger. All present voted yes.

Mayor Browning began the discussion regarding chickens within city limits. Council Member Randy Dunn stated that there is an ordinance that mentions no livestock. Mayor Browning stated that she is aware of horses on Chapel Hill. Council Member Wanda Olson stated that the price of eggs is going down, we have almost 700 rental properties in the city limits, if we cannot get them to throw away their trash they will not properly care for their chickens. Council Member Taylor Davis stated that he had been reviewing chicken ordinances in other cities, the ordinances were strict towards the number of hens you may own, and the overall hygiene responsibilities that come with chicken coops. Council Member Taylor Davis also added that the school has the resources to house chickens for

educational purposes, and he would like to see the school have that possibility, or an exemption specific to the schools. Council Member Dwight Sherer stated that he agrees with everyone, stated that he had concerns about the possibility of rodents caused by chickens. Council Member Dwight Sherer asked if anyone has made any serious inquiries about owning chickens. Council Member Wanda Olson stated that no one follows code as is. Council Member Bobby Belt stated that rodents are a big part of owning chickens, and that they are a lot more work than most people realize. Council Member Wanda Olson stated that the Code Enforcement Board previously voted against chickens in the school due to the housing that surrounds the school. Council Member Nikki Conger stated that she does not want to be a part of a passive council, she will be voting no. Council Member Nikki Conger also added that at the most recent Code Enforcement Board meeting nothing was accomplished. Council Member Dwight Sherer stated that he does not believe this is a passive council. Council Member Taylor Davis asked Council Member Nikki Conger if she would agree to an exemption to the school. Council Member Nikki Conger stated that this was a discussion to be held, a definite no for residents though. Citizen Karen Cruce-Smith stated her concerns about the bird flu. Council Member Bobby Belt stated he agreed with Mrs. Cruce-Smith, that was a concern to consider. Citizen Cynthia Pendley asked if there could possibly be an ordinance to keep chickens in a pen. Citizen Wayne Hatfield mentioned the concern about chicken waste. Mayor Browning stated that this sounds like a permanent solution to a temporary problem. Citizen Marla Manning stated that she did not want to see a chicken coop, and that it was easier to close a door than to open one. Citizen Sharon Bockman suggested making an ordinance to prohibit chickens. Council Member Taylor Davis asked City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield if she had reached out to other communities. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that she recently reached out to Louisville, Paducah and Lexington; these cities all have issues with chickens. Mayor Browning stated we will keep everything as is, no chickens in city limits.

Mayor Browning presented city service awards; the list is attached.

Other Business

Council Member Bobby Belt stated that at the 300 block on N Walker his daughter Kenzie McKinley's sewer was backing up into her tub. Council Member Bobby Belt also added that two of Mrs. McKinley's neighbors were having the same issue. Maintenance supervisor Garry Gerard stated that he jetted the lines on Friday but will look again. Council Member Bobby Belt thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mayor Browning thanked Council Member Bobby Belt for attending the Internet Summit that she stated was focused on fiber internet for local businesses.

Council Member Wanda Olson stated that we should hold off on paving North Maple and Travis Street to Keeling Street, due to the possibility of heavy trucks damaging exposed water lines where there was a major leak on North Maple and Travis Street.

Council Member Randy Dunn stated there are several potholes at the turn between South Main and Chapel Hill.

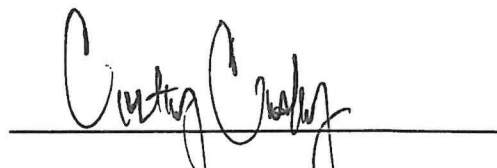
Mayor Browning stated there would be a celebration in honor of all the employees and their service awards, everyone was welcome to stay and enjoy cake.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion was made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.



D'Anna Browning, Mayor


ATTEST: Cortny Cosby, City Clerk

Ray – has 25 years of service and in September he will have 26 years of service. Tonight, we are awarding him with 20 years' service and a 25-year service awards.

Garry – has 20 years of service award tonight and in May he will be back for his 25-year service award.

Greg – has 20 years of service award tonight and in June he will have 23 years of service.

Bobby – has 20 years of service award tonight and in October he will have 22 years of service.

Michele – had 20 years of service this past January.

Jeff – had 15 years of service award tonight and will be back in July for a 20-year service award.

Tony – we get to present Tony two service awards tonight one for 10 years and another for 15 years of service to our city.

Tom – has a 10-year service award this evening and as of February he has served our city for 13 years.

Ms. Layten – has a 10-year service award this evening and as of this coming June will have worked for the city 12 years.

Red Howton – has 40 years of service this past July 1st, 2024.