

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, May 15, 2023, at 5:00 P.M.**

The Marion City Council met in Regular Session on May 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council members included Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Tracy Cook, Dwight Sherer, and Mike Byford. City Employees in attendance were as follows: Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Pam Enoch, Jeff Black, Greg Tabor, Garry Gerard, Police Chief Ray O'Neal, Bobby West, Fire Chief Ronald Howton, and Johnathan James filling in for Legal Service Officer. A public sign-in sheet is attached and made part of these minutes.

Mayor Browning welcomed the new City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield and was very proud to have her.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Thomas Hawthorne, resident at 102 South Main Street and 210 South Main Street was present at the meeting concerning an issue with the sidewalk in front of his property at 102 South Main Street. He stated that he couldn't attend the last council meeting and was wondering what the city had done with the broken sidewalk in front of his shop. Mayor Browning advised this was a personal issue and that it was an old crack in the sidewalk. City Administrator, Diane Benningfield, agreed to meet with Thom concerning this issue later.

Rhonda Horack, resident of 211 E Bellville Street was present at the meeting thanking the council for being able to have a hearing on June 19th from the Board of Adjustments concerning opening a business at her residence.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Motion by Randy Dunn, seconded by Wanda Olson to approve the April 17, 2023, minutes, as submitted to the council. All voted yes.

Councilwoman Wanda Olson sponsored the first reading of Ordinance #23-02, entitled, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 22-08- The City of Marion, Kentucky, Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 07/01/2022 through 06/30/2023." Mayor Browning gave the first reading of the said ordinance.

Councilman Randy Dunn sponsored the first reading of Ordinance #23-03, entitled, "An Ordinance Adopting the City of Marion, Kentucky, Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 07/01/2023 through 06/30/2024 by Estimating Revenue and Resources and Appropriating Funds for the Operation of City Government". Mayor Browning gave the first reading of the said ordinance. Administrator Ford-Benningfield advised that she and Treasurer Croft worked hard to get the budget together. Administrator Ford-Benningfield advised the city's budget would be tight next year due to anticipated expenses of its ongoing water crisis. Administrator Ford-Benningfield advised the budget would include certain training and certification expenses, which would include the training in all maintenance departments. No other discussion was had.

Councilman Dwight Sherer sponsored the first reading of Ordinance #23-04, entitled, "An Ordinance the pay plan for Classified City Employees and Non-Elected Officials." Councilman Mike Byford questioned how the 6.5% raise was decided. Administrator Ford-Benningfield advised the county got a 6.5 % raise and the state had gotten 8% percent raise.

Mr. Tim Thomas updated the council on Lake George & the current water supply. Consultant Thomas advised that on Thursday, Schnabel Engineering, the town's new engineering firm specializing in levees and dams, and Marine Solutions, a company with expertise in solving problems underwater, will be at Lake George conducting exploratory work. Crews plan to send a camera probe into the depths of the reservoir and into the damaged pipe, which some believe created the original leak last spring. Marine Solutions capped the faulty pipe a few weeks ago, at least preventing Lake George from losing the last of its water. Councilman Dwight Sherer asked if it is proved that the pipe caused the failure of the levy would that have influence on DOW's opinion of repairing the Dam. Mr. Thomas advised he was unsure. Mr. Thomas also let the council know that the future of the lake is up to them. He advised the water rate study would be finished on May 24th and would be presented to the council soon.

Donnie Arflack, resident of 261 Old Shady Grove Road was present to voice his opinion on the water crisis. He stated the city couldn't survive another summer like last year and needed a plan in place. Mr. Thomas stated the leaks were down and the city is in better shape.

Greg Tabor, superintendent at the wastewater plant gave the council an update on the Marion Sanitary Sewer Project. Mr. Tabor advised that the project is delayed due to material acquisition issues. He stated that the work would stop in June and not resume until electrical materials can be procured, perhaps in the fall.

Motion by Dwight Sherer, seconded by Randy Dunn to re-appoint Edwin Lee Belt to the Code Enforcement Board for a 3-year term. All voted yes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Randy Dunn advised that Chapel Hill Road had several potholes and needed attention. Mayor Browning told Garry Gerard to take care of it.

Councilwoman Wanda Olson wanted to know the regulations for people living in campers. She was advised that no one was allowed to live in a camper.

Councilwoman updated the council on what events were coming up with Marion Tourism Commission.

Councilman Dwight Sherer welcomed the new City Administrator, Diane Ford-Benningfield, and thank her for her hard work. The administrator Ford-Benningfield door was always open if anyone needed anything.

Councilman Mike Byford suggested spending money on paving the potholes instead of paving Chapel Hill Road.

Mayor Browning advised she had promoted George Foster to sergeant and will put him in charge of code enforcement effective May 17th and Cortny Cosby would be an administrative assistant in City Hall.

Mayor Browning advised Phase 1 of the city's creek clean-up will begin on Tuesday with the first location between Curve INN on Sturgis Road and the Crittenden County Food Bank on North Walker Street. Administrator Ford-Benningfield advised a letter was being drafted by Bart Frazer to get permission from property owners to access their property.

Mayor Browning advised she had been talking to Judge Executive Perry Newcom about the high grass at the City/County Park. Mayor Browning advised a park director was needed.

Mayor Browning advised that all city buildings were getting checked for hail damage.

Mayor Browning stated that the old laundry building still had bottled water in it. She mentioned potentially having a free distribution day. The building would be correctly advertised and would be put up for bids in September or October.

Plant Operator, Jeff Black stated the creek behind the water plant needed to be cleaned out. Administrator Ford-Beginning advised that would be put on the list.

Councilman Mike asked about the residents at 259 Sturgis Road in reference to the sewer backing up in their basement. Administrator Ford-Benningfield advised there is no update but putting the maintenance department would be putting a degreaser in the drainage system.

A special called council meeting will be on Tuesday 23, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.


D'ANNA BROWNING, MAYOR

ATTEST:


PAM ENOCH, CITY CLERK