

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, March 20, 2023, at 5:00 P.M.**

The Marion City Council met in Regular Session March 20 , 2023 at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council members present were; Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Tracy Cook, Dwight Sherer, Bobby Belt and Mike Byford. City Employees in attendance were as follows: Layten Croft, Chief Ray O'Neal, Cortny Cosby and Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer. A public sign in sheet is attached and made part of these minutes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Thomas Hawthorn came before the Mayor and Council with a concern of a broken sidewalk on W Bellville Street in front of a property he owns. He advised that when The People's Bank was working in the area, they placed a dumpster and/or truck on the sidewalk causing it to crack. He requests that the Mayor and Council investigate the issue. He advised The People's Bank should have insurance to fix the broken sidewalk. The Mayor used her personal property as an example and advised, outside of grants that the City receives, that in the past the sidewalk maintenance falls upon the property owner.

Ric Carder came before the Mayor and Council and requested that no one be allowed to park on the sidewalks. He also questioned the snow/ice removal in the city limits during inclement weather. He also mentioned that he has seen the signs at the edge of town about "no air brakes" but he wishes the Police Department would do something about the vehicles in town with loud exhaust. He advised there are "hotrods" that "drag race" on Bellville St. at all hours of the night. Chief O'Neal was in the audience, and he advised the Police Department had written a ticket to one of the loud vehicles in that area. Mr. Carder also requested to know if the City of Marion is receiving water from another source or if the city would be in the same situation as it was last summer. The Mayor advised we are now ahead of most of the leaks in town and we have an agreement with Crittenden-Livingston Water District.

1. The first item listed on the agenda was the approval of the Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2023, council meeting and February 20, 2023, special called meeting. **A motion was made by Tracy Cook, seconded by Randy Dunn to approve the minutes. All council members voting yes, motion passed.**

2. The second item listed on the agenda was an update from Tim Thomas, Water Consultant.

Mr. Tim Thomas advised the city had sent out RFP (Request for Proposals) to a select group of engineering firms for a final design at Lake George Dam. Tim Thomas recommended to the Mayor to enter into a contract with Schnabel to pick up where BFW left off. He did advised that BFW was part of the group of select firms and they did not complete or submit an RFP to the City. Mr. Thomas added that Schnabel has a well working relationship with the Division of Water. He told the Mayor and Council that the Marion Water Plant had been self-sufficient for the past several weeks. He added that the Mayor was justified in lightening the water restrictions.

Bobby Belt asked Mr. Thomas if Schnabel would have to start completely over, or could they use some of the information gathered from BFW. Tim advised they would not have to start back at square one.

Councilman Sherer asked for a time frame in the repair. Mr. Thomas advised that the State would be in the driver's seat after Schnabel completed their initial work.

Mayor Browning advised that she thought Schnabel could make it work where the City could keep water in the lake while fixing it, which was encouraging news. Mr. Thomas agreed but added that it would cost more to do such.

The Mayor again thanked Mr. Thomas for all of his work, adding we (City of Marion) could not do this without him.

Councilwoman Cook request to know about a new water treatment facility. Mr. Thomas advised the issue with building a new plant would be our raw water supply and the cost of construction on a new facility.

3. The next item on the agenda was the discussion of AOC renting offices in City Hall to hold court while the new courthouse is being built. Mayor Browning advised the Council of her plan on renting out City Hall to AOC. She told the Council her intention of getting the extra revenue for a new HVAC unit and new roof on City Hall. She advised she would meet virtually with AOC this week.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Dunn advised he had not been approached to attend any of his board meetings. He had nothing else to bring before the Mayor or council members.

Councilwoman Olson advised she had some code issues brought to her attention but that she had been working with Cortny Cosby this date on those.

Councilwoman Cook reminded everyone that the Outlaw Series Racing would be in the area this weekend and encouraged everyone to go check it out. She also advised Tourism had been making plans for the Quilt Show.

Councilman Sherer advised he had been to the Airport Board Meeting and all things at the Marion-Crittenden County Airport were going well. He advised they are working on a new hanger project and would continue working on that project for the next several months.

Councilman Belt advised he had been to the Sewer Plant meeting. He advised the Playground was officially open.

Councilman Byford requested to know about the street paving and the street paving list. He request that the Council review the street list. He also questioned the surplus of the Laundry Building on Watson Street.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.


D'ANNA BROWNING, MAYOR


Layten Croft, Asst. City Clerk