

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, July 17, 2023, at 5:00 P.M.**

The Marion City Council met in Regular Session June 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Tracy Cook, Bobby Belt, Dwight Sherer and Mike Byford. City Employees in attendance were as follows: Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Pam Enoch, Jeff Black, Assistant Chief Bobby West, Fire Chief Red Howton and Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer. A public sign-in sheet is attached and made part of these minutes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Rhonda Horack, resident at 211 East Bellville Street approached the council and requested action be taken in reference to the leash law within the city limits. She advised that she has been attacked by dogs on two separate occasions at 122 Rochester Ave and 611 Old Shady Grove Rd.

Denver Robertson, resident on State Route 120 (not within the city limits) approached the council and requested to know if the council and Mayor had plans to annex his community into the city limits of Marion. Administrator Ford-Benningfield advised that discussion had not been had.

Motion by Councilman Randy Dunn, seconded by Councilwoman Wanda Olson to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 19, 2023. All present council members voted yes; motion carried.

Next before the council and Mayor was the second reading of Ordinance #23-05 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MARION CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 95.03 FISHING PROHIBITED." Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer gave the summary of said ordinance. Chris Evans with The Crittenden Press requested to know if this would prohibit fishing at Victory Pond, located adjacent to the Victory Gardens. Legal Service Officer Frazer advised no. No other discussion was had. A roll call vote was made, all present council members voted yes, motion carried.

Councilwoman Tracy Cook sponsored the first reading of Ordinance 23-06 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF MARION." Councilman Bobby Belt advised he believed this increase (2023-40%, 2024-3% & 2025-3%) was too much for our community all at one time. He advised he understood the need for the increase, but he wished that the reallocation of the sewer maintenance supervisor and the City Clerk salaries during the recent rate study would not be a factor in figuring what our increase percentage should be. He requested taking a 30% increase at first and then adding in the 5% after a year, and another 5% the following year. Mayor Browning added that no one disagrees with Councilman Belt but we, as a water company, must be able to break even to run a successful business. The Mayor added she worried about the shape of our current water infrastructure. Administrator Ford-Benningfield stated that she was thankful to have had the rate study, and to break even, in her opinion, we would need to take 50% off the top. Councilman Sherer asked Tim Thomas if the council did not vote to make this rate increase would the city receive any negative feedback from Frankfort or RCAP. Mr. Thomas advised RCAP would not have any negative feedback, they have performed their duties. Mr. Thomas advised Frankfort and the Division of Water would take notice of how the city chose to move forward.

Motion by Councilman Byford, seconded by Councilman Dunn to surplus the 2003 Chevrolet Blazer (VIN:1GN1T13X83K175295) and 2022 Dodge Charger (VIN:2B3CL1CGXBH557534). All present council members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Tim Thomas came before the Mayor and Marion City Council and presented an update on Lake George, Old City Lake and the working projects included in both. He advised the pump at the lakes are now functioning in a way where the operators could choose to take water from Lake George or Old City Lake. He advised he had been to Frankfort on this date to meet with the Division of Water and Schnabel. He advised this was a high-level meeting regarding the coffer dam design and he added this would take approximately 30 days to design and then DoW would have to review and approve. He added the Division of Water advised they would expedite their process of approval. Mr. Thomas advised the council that the Army Corp of Engineers would have to be included in this process due to adding fill material into the waters of the United States. Mayor Browning addressed Mr. Thomas along with the public about how Schnabel had great concern about the excavating work performed to the side of the levy in April of 2022. The Mayor also asked Mr. Thomas to speak on the great news from Congressman Comer's office; he advised they had introduced the Crittenden/Livingston expansion project into the Federal Budget. Councilman Belt requested to know how often the water plant draws water from Lake George, Jeff Black advised they have not used the pump since Saturday July 15, 2023. Mayor Browning asked Jeff Black how much water we are receiving from CLWD, he answered around 60 gallons per minute.

OTHER BUSINESS


Councilman Byford advised there is high grass at Old Morganfield Rd and Adam Street.

Administrator Ford-Benningfield addressed the council with the proposed city street paving list.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.


D'ANNA BROWNING, MAYOR


ATTEST: PAM ENOCH, CITY CLERK