

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
December 17, 2018**

The Marion City Council met in regular session December 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jared Byford presiding. Council members present were Phyllis Sykes, Darrin Tabor, Donnie Arflack, Dwight Sherer, D'Anna Browning, and Mike Byford. City employees in attendance were as follows: Adam Ledford, Melinda Gipson, Brian Thomas, Terri Hart, Heath Martin, and the city attorney. A public sign-in sheet is attached and made part of these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill James was present at the council meeting to complain about his Mediacom service. The city receives a franchise fee from Mediacom as part of a 10-year agreement to use the city's right-of-way access. Mr. James is having problems with channels and signals. Members of the city staff and elected officials explained they had no control over the channels provided.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Motion by Phyllis Sykes, second by D'Anna Browning to approve the minutes of November 19, 2018 minutes submitted to the council. All voted yes.

Jeff Walker, of Walker and Associates, was at the council meeting to present the 2017-2018 audit. He answered all questions and explained how the pension that the city belongs to is underfunded. There were no other deficiencies to report.

The administrator gave an update on the correspondence regarding annexation from Airport Road and all others that were given sewer without the benefit of being in the city limits. All responses were negative and therefore he saw no interest in the areas being annexed into the city. Council member Arflack expressed his desire to continue with the Airport being annexed into the city. The city attorney was confident that could be done by going down the right of ways.

Business owner, Jonathan James, was present to express his concern over annexation. The mayor assured Mr. James since there was no interest in annexation from the residents, no further action will be taken at this time.

City Attorney, Bart Frazer, gave the second reading to an ordinance authorizing the mayor to execute a lease with the Marion Tourism Commission. Motion by Dwight Sherer, second by Phyllis Sykes to adopt said ordinance with the understanding there is no significant monetary consideration. Motion passed with the vote being as follows: Sykes yes, Arflack no, Tabor, Sherer yes, Browning yes, and Mike Byford yes.

Some objections were raised by Ms. Linda Schumann, a copy of said objection is attached and made part of these minutes.

Bids were taken for the sanitary sewer collection system improvements on November 28, 2018. Motion by Tabor, second by Arflack, to approve the low bid from Akins Excavation Company, Inc. for \$2,633,606.50. It was questioned why their bid was so much lower but our engineer, Alan Robinson, checked out the company and approved it. All voted yes.

The council was given a bad debt list for consideration to write off for accounting purposes. Mayor Byford suggested the city attorney send out some letters to try to collect some of the debts. Motion by Arflack, second by Sherer, to approve writing off the debts. All voted yes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Mike Byford reported that the crosswalk on South Main is still not working.

Councilmember D'Anna Browning was saying the pothole behind City Hall was huge.

Councilmember Dwight Sherer stated he was thankful for the stretch of new blacktop on Main Street.

Councilmember Donnie Arflack was concerned about the Mineral and Mining services not paying any principal on their note for over two years. He saw this information from the audit.

Councilmember Phyllis Sykes asked for minutes and financials from park board, tourism and all board meetings to be included in packets.

A citizen inquired as to who would be inspector for the new sewer plant and collection system. Mr. Ledford said the engineers, himself and the utility director would be inspecting the progress on a regular basis.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

JARED BYFORD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELINDA GIPSON, ASST. CITY CLERK