

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
April 16, 2018**

The Marion City Council met in regular session April 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. with Jared Byford presiding. Council members present were Phyllis Sykes, Darrin Tabor, Donnie Arflack, Dwight Sherer, D'Anna Sallin, and Mike Byford. City employees in attendance were as follows: Adam Ledford, Pam Enoch, Terri Hart, Ray O'Neal, and the city attorney Bart Frazer. A public sign-in sheet is attached and part of these minutes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Motion by Dwight Sherer, second by Phyllis Sykes to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2018 minutes submitted same to council. All voted yes.

Wes Hunt, Board President of the City/County Park Board, was present at the council meeting to provide an update about current and future activities involving the park. He stated that as the park board works to reorganize, they have been holding meetings on a regular basis. He also shared that the park board had created a list for capital improvements, featuring a need for new scoreboards at both the little league field and the softball diamond. Mr. Hunt further shared news about drainage issues at the oval track, site of recent resurfacing efforts; support by Mike Weldon to reseal and paint the park basketball courts; and plans for an open house on Saturday, April 21, 2018 to include the unveiling of an interactive mural. Board Member Robin Curnel added details of a park project to replace the bridge due to the safety hazards.

Aliyah Maraman and her family were present at the council meeting to share plans to build bat houses in the park and other locations (where desired). She went over the project with the council and shared that the project had already received support from the City/County Park Board. The city administrator, Adam Ledford, said the request was for a \$200 donation to buy the materials for this project. He said he would organize donations to cover the cost.

The city administrator reported that his original goal was to present the finance committee's preliminary proposed budget tonight, but due to uncertainty at the State, the committee was unable to provide an advanced copy. He stated the goal is to provide a copy in advance of May's meeting at the earliest possible date. He stated, as of now, the general fund draft budget is \$46,000 over revenue using the 21.48% retirement model (assuming the purchase of a police truck using planned reserves for that purpose, which means the budget is roughly \$10,000 over revenue.) This is a gap that will need to be closed assuming the step-in model of retirement is approved. If the full 28.05% retirement model is approved the finance committee will be recommending additional measure to balance the budget.

Council member Donnie Arflack requested a rent revenue report from the city.

Council member Darrin Tabor had concerns about the lake getting low, and what precautions the city had for back up. The city administrator stated he would check on the agreement with Crittenden/Livingston Water District next week.

The council was presented a copy of the planning commission's updated Marion Comprehensive Plan in last month's council packets. The Code Enforcement Officer, Terri Hart, said the next step would be for the commission to conduct a public hearing and consider adopting the new plan. The Council will then have 90 days to consider the new plan, if approved or no action is taken within that time, the plan becomes law.

The city administrator stated a letter on 911E Firehorn Software Project was included in their packets. The Police Chief, Ray O'Neal, stated the system was working good. The letter described how the software is being used. The letter is attached and made part of these minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council member Phyllis Sykes asked for update on the post office sidewalk. The city administrator stated he would follow up on that issue.

Council member Phyllis Sykes asked about the signs for Country Club Drive. The city administrator said the utility director had ordered them.

Council member Phyllis Sykes asked if there was a time frame on getting the fire hydrants repaired that didn't work.

Council member Darrin Tabor questioned drenching the lake to increase volume.

Council member Darrin Tabor had concerns about the Marion Tourism APP. He stated it needed to have business openings on there.

Council member Donnie Arflack requested the council to have an expenditures breakdown for Tourism.

Council member Donnie Arflack was concerned about which streets had the most traffic and needed to be paved.

Council member Donnie Arflack suggested setting up a safe exchange zone in the city parking.

Council member D'Anna Sallin stated people are still not stopping at the new white line at the US60 and US641 intersection.

The city administrator stated Chamber had plans to continue the weekend murder mystery event next year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

JARED BYFORD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

PAM ENOCH, CITY CLERK