

Meeting of the Marion City Council

Monday, October 21, 2024, at 5:00PM

The Marion City Council met in regular session on October 21, 2024, with Mayor Browning presiding. The council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Taylor Davis, Dwight Sherer, Bobby Belt and Michael Byford. City employees present were Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Cortny Cosby, Jeff Black, Chief Bobby West and Greg Tabor. City Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer, was absent.

General Government

Mayor Browning presented Brennan Cruce with a "Key to the City". Mayor Browning went on to mention Brennan has served on the Marion Fire Department for 14 years. Brennan also holds a seat on the Maple View Cemetery Board as well as the Crittenden County Museum Board. Brennan is an active volunteer throughout the community. As part of the Cutter and Cash and The Kentucky Grass, Brennan and the band donate generously to our local food bank as well.

Motion by councilwoman Wanda Olson, seconded by Randy Dunn to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting on September 18, 2024. All present council members voted yes; motion carried.

Mayor Browning recommended to the council the appointment of a part-time Code Enforcement Officer, Rick Mills. Rick Mills stated that he currently oversees the Waverly, Providence and Sturgis area code enforcement, and plans to ramp up the city with Universal Code Enforcement avoiding involvement with the city ordinances as much as possible. Rick Mills stated that property values have gone up by almost \$6,000 where he has served. Councilman Bobby Belt questioned who has been performing this job. Mayor Browning answered Chief Bobby West. Councilwoman Wanda Olson explained the process of a code enforcement complaint, and how Chief Bobby West receives the complaints. Councilman Bobby Belt questioned if there would be room in the budget for this position. Diane Ford-Benningfield, followed with the city has made room in the budget for this position and will be taking this into consideration on a year-to-year basis. Mayor Browning explained this will save the city time and money. Councilman Mike Byford asked the rate per hour for this position. Diane Ford-Benningfield responded that the hourly rate would be \$18.00. Mayor Browning stated that we had a Code Enforcement meeting on the first Monday of October and will continue to have meetings on the first Monday of every month by ordinance. Motion by Dwight Sherer, seconded by Taylor Davis to hire a part time Code Enforcement Officer and accept Mayor Browning's appointment of Rick Mills to the position. All present members voted yes; motion carried.

Mayor Browning recommended Wanda Olson to be a council member liaison for the Code Enforcement Board. Motion by Taylor Davis, seconded by Randy Dunn to approve the Mayor's appointment of a liaison to the board. All present members voted yes; motion carried.

Mayor Browning presented a list of various properties either in the process of being condemned or the property owner is in the process of cleaning up.

Tim Thomas provided an update on Lake George stating that the Dam is looking better than it has been in many decades and that we are in the final stages of the dam rehabilitation project. The newly installed siphon is functioning as it should and was used to refill Old City Lake. Mr. Thomas stated that he is pleased to be associated with this project and will be pleased to see it finished. Tim Thomas also wanted to mention the Kentucky WWATERS Grant, a 1.8-million-dollar grant that the city was awarded. The city will be using this grant to replace water lines and water meters with the latest technology. Mr. Thomas stated that \$700,000 of this will be used to update meters and will allow readings to be collected electronically and then directly sent to City Hall. Mr. Thomas believes this fast approval is a form of an incentive for Marion to consider going regional with CLWD. Councilman Dwight Sherer questioned what the average life of these meters would be, because we did this once before and are currently unable to use that system. Tim Thomas replied about ten years in which we may or may not have to replace batteries and other things. Mr. Thomas also mentioned that this is unlike before when companies would go out of business before it was time to purchase new batteries or replacement parts for meters. Councilman Dwight Sherer asked if customers should expect higher readings with the new, and more accurate meters

compared to our older, current meters that tend to slow down with age. Mr. Thomas replied they are very sensitive and accurate; we will be able to notify the customer at the first sign of a leak. Mayor Browning stated this will help provide more consistent billing, more specifically the same number of days within a billing cycle. Mayor Browning then asked when we will receive the grant funds and what time frame we should expect. Mr. Thomas explained we should be able to request for bids as early as this winter. Mayor Browning updated our state of emergency will expire at the end of the year 2024.

Other Business

Garry Cruce asked when we will be replacing the fire hydrants. Mayor Browning stated that we must replace water lines first, to avoid setting the hydrants twice.

Mayor Browning asked Jeff Black about the current water quality within the city, Jeff Black responded that the water quality is as great as it's ever been.

Councilman Mike Byford reported high grass at E. Bellville and Kevil St., as well as a lot past the hospital on Industrial Drive.

Councilman Bobby Belt stated that our local airport had its first international flight, the flight was to Toronto, Canada. Councilman Dwight Sherer also stated that the airport was approved for a grant to build new hangers.

Councilman Dwight Sherer asked for an update on Tanglewood road construction progress, Diane Ford-Benningfield responded that she would need to check with Garry Gerard, and she has spoken with Impact Waste about backing up before turning on this street.

Councilman Randy Dunn asked Tim Thomas about the possibility of a boat ramp at Lake George. Tim Thomas said it would most likely be another 2-3 years before that is a possibility. He reminded the council that this phase of dam rehabilitation is not full restoration, but allowing a boat ramp or limited access would be up to the city. Councilwoman Wanda Olson asked about the temporary coffer dam permit ending. Mr. Tim Thomas explained that the state would oversee reissuing the permit once it is expired if they saw fit. Mr. Thomas advised Phase Two of the project, better understood as a full restoration of Lake George, is the great unknown. He and the Mayor advised outreach is being made to find help with that project.

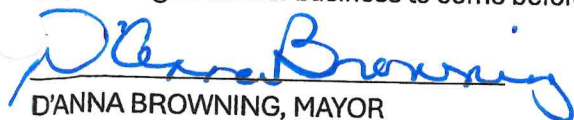
Mayor Browning provided an update on recycling. She advised that the county is responsible for recycling, and they have decided to start over and begin accepting bids. Mayor Browning announced Trick or Treat on Main will take place on Halloween from 3:00PM-5:00PM.

Donnie Arflack stated that the timing of the stop light located on Main and Bellville Street is off again.

Councilwoman Wanda Olson stated that the 4-way stop sign marker on US Highway 60 West is too far back, making it harder to see traffic stopped on that side. Chief Bobby West stated that he has contacted the Kentucky Department of Transportation (KDOT) and they advised they could not move the stop lines due to semis needing room to turn. He also advised he reached out to KDOT regarding the alignment of the stop sign and the stop lines. Chief West said KDOT was looking into this concern.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00PM.


D'ANNA BROWNING, MAYOR


ATTEST: LAYTEN CROFT, ASST. CITY CLERK