

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING 6:30 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013

A regular meeting was held by City Council on August 14, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Emerson Hunt and Joseph Frazier were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones, and Attorney Robert Lee.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Davis welcomed citizens, guests and the press. (Hometown TV)

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting on July 9, 2013, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Mayor Davis requested Council's approval for a resolution for Bishop Michael Blue. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Mayor Davis requested Council's approval for a resolution for the 90th birthday of Marion County resident Mr. Leroy Small. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilwoman Odessa Gregg; motion carried.

Mayor Davis presented the Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award to Mr. & Mrs. Frank Askins, Ms. Alice McCrain and Ms. Janell Davis. He thanked them for their efforts in helping keep the City of Marion clean and beautiful. All recipients expressed their thanks at being recognized and plan to continue their beautification efforts.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to allow the Marion County Clerk of Court to use Council chambers the week of September 2 - 6, seconded by Councilwoman Odessa Gregg; motion carried.

Regarding bids for Fire Department turn-out gear, Mr. Ammons stated that Attorney Lee and the Purchasing Agent reviewed the bids, with the low bid from Safe Industries taking 13 exceptions (to specifications) with no explanation why. The next low bid from Wally's Fire & Safety took 3 exceptions to specifications with qualifications on how they would meet the same goal. At Chief Cooper's recommendation and Attorney Lee's review, it was deemed that the low bid from Safe industries did not meet the specifications required and should not be awarded and that the bid should go to Wally's Fire & Safety. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept the bid from Wally's Fire & Safety with the 3 exceptions, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Regarding the SRO Agreement with the Marion County School District, Mr. Ammons commented that the one year agreement is the same as it has been in years past. It covers the financial burden of the two officers, one at Marion High and one at Johnakin Middle School and we would still have access to the officers in the summer when school is not in session. (at no cost to the City). Upon being assured that Attorney Lee had reviewed the agreement, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to accept the agreement, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Regarding the City of Marion Emergency Operations Plan, Mr. Ammons stated that Director Brandon Ellis would meet with Council to conduct a workshop Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve The City of Marion Emergency Operations Plan, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ammons reported that the stormwater projects in the area of Grice's track and pool have been completed. In the next few months, Mr. Ammons and Mayor Davis would like to bring before Council a proposal from Alliance Engineering, for their consideration, regarding a southeast Marion drainage project.

The pool at Grice's is now under construction and the general contractor anticipates completion in 45-60 days if no problems arise.

Mr. Ammons sent Council copies of Block Party Ordinances from Greer and Clemson for their review. He asked that Council note any changes or adjustments that they feel need to be made and give him their suggestions. In turn, the Attorney Lee will present something in Ordinance form to Council for their consideration.

We are now spraying 2 -3 times a week for mosquitoes.

Mullins Mayor Bo McMillan has requested use of one of our older mosquito sprayers and they will make any necessary repairs to the equipment. Mayor Davis and Mayor McMillan have pledged to work together as a team and Mayor Davis encouraged Council to accept their request. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to allow the City of Mullins to use the mosquito sprayer as requested, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Richard Moody in the Sanitation Department was named *July Employee of the Month* and was presented with a gift certificate.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Robert Lee had nothing to report at this time.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

All departmental reports are sent to Council members in their packets. Mayor Davis recognized various committee members: Mr. William Campbell co-chair of the Senior Council gave a brief summary of their meeting on Thursday, August

8 and announced the next meeting would be Thursday, August 29th at 3:00 p.m. at the Fire Department; Dr. Walter James stated that the Historic Commission had met and approved work being done on the Court House and Records Building; Mr. Hezekiah Norman of the Housing Authority commented that things there were going well; Mrs. Mary Frazier on the Voucher Program Committee had nothing to report. Chief Jim Gray reported that the City now has 2 new certified police officers and asked that residents continue to report any suspicious activity. Mayor Davis asked that anyone who would like to get involved, please contact Mrs. Mary Eaddy on the Citizen's Advisory Committee, as this committee needs more members. They check around town and report to the Mayor and Council any areas of concern.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUINCIL AND MAYOR/MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION REPORT

Councilman Michael Baker had no comment at this time.

Councilman Joe Frazier thanked the citizens for electing him to District 4 and stated that he will continue to speak out when he sees something he is not satisfied with.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Odessa Gregg had no comment at this time.

Councilman Emerson Hunt had no comment at this time.

Mayor Bobby Davis stated there would be a meeting on Thursday at 9:30 to regarding video surveillance cameras to help deter crime downtown (these are not for the MPD). Some downtown merchants are willing and ready to help with this. Any Council members who plan to attend the meeting should notify Mayor Davis tonight so that in the event of a quorum, the press can be notified. Mayor Davis thanked the City staff for attending the Town Hall meeting and has received numerous comments from citizens who appreciated that they could now put names of the staff with faces. Mayor Davis stated that there would be a Town Hall meeting on October 28th at 6:00 p.m. The Department of Justice and the US Attorney for South Carolina have been asked to attend to offer suggestions for the safety of our children.

Mayor Davis commented on the annual MASC meeting in Greenville and passed around a handout from MASC regarding how to conduct Council meetings in harmony, based on Roberts' Rules of Order, which we are governed by. Councilwoman Gregg offered that she was very impressed by the conference and the sessions that were held, particularly one that discussed crime rate and what the city can do. Mr. Ammons commented that it was a good meeting, particularly the session on police policies and procedures. The City of Marion follows the model police policy established by MASC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Antonio Vaught addressed the Mayor and Council regarding having summer programs through the Recreation Department in order to give our youth more to do and is willing to assist in this endeavor. He is also willing to serve on the Recreation Committee. Mr. Vaught would also be willing to tap into some recreation resources at Ft. Bragg, as he is stationed there, and thinks they may be able to provide some things we need. Mr. Vaught further stated that the worst thing we can do for our children is nothing. Mayor Davis thanked him for his comments and replied that a Recreation Committee was being formed and would make sure Mr. Vaught was on that committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss contractual matters regarding the Sale of City Property and a Lease Agreement for Private Property, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action had been taken. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to enter Open Session, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Regarding the Sale of City Property being the property along railroad bed on Jones Avenue Extension and the Zion Highway, GSWSA has offered \$5,000. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to sell the property presented in the packet, to GSWSA at the price they offered to pay, seconded by Council Michael Baker; motion carried.

Regarding the Community Garden, Mr. Ammons recommended that Attorney Lee draw up a lease agreement with each owner, with the terms of \$1.00 per year, and authorize the City to do what needs done for the garden. At this point Mayor Davis recused himself from this discussion and vote, due to the fact that he owns part of the property the garden is planted on, and asked that Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson take over and proceed with this discussion. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion that the City Attorney draw up the necessary papers for the \$1.00 lease on both properties and present them at the next meeting, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried. Mayor Davis abstained from the vote due to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

There was no discussion on former employee's pending lawsuit.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped: August 13, 2013

