

**MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**JANUARY 13, 2015**  
**6:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held by City Council on January 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Joseph Frazier and Emerson Hunt were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones and City Attorney Kenneth Davis.

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 approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 9, 2014, 2014, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis presented the Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award to the City of Marion Sanitation Department, Street Department and City Hall Staff for their contribution in making Marion even more beautiful during the Christmas holiday season.

Vondell Roberts of the Sanitation Department was named *December Employee of the Month* and presented with a gift certificate.

After a request from Ms. Wanda Legette and Ms. Debbie Erwin, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to allow the *Relay for Life* use of CD Joyner on February 14, 2015 free of charge, pending no previous commitment of the auditorium on that day. The motion was seconded by Councilman Emerson Hunt and carried. Mayor Davis appreciates their hard work and asked that they let him know if there is anything the City can do to support them.

Regarding the proposal for lights at the Green Street Complex, Mr. Ammons commented that proposal (included in Council's packets) includes revenue acquired from registration, sponsorships, entry fees and hosting tournaments. Cost for the lights from Musco Sports Lighting will be \$14,098.33 per year for 7 years at 4.45% interest. This would light the additional field at Green Street and all games

could then played at one facility instead of having games at Green Street, Watsonia and Tilghman. Mayor Davis commented that this would help us bring in the State tournaments and more people to Marion. In response to a question from Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson, Mr. Ammons responded that he was comfortable with these numbers, and feels the admission fees will be even higher than originally estimated. If we can get things in order, there are 2 tournaments that have tentatively committed for this summer. Councilman Ralph Atkinson asked if the revenue stream didn't pan out would we be able to use a portion of the Hospitality Tax toward the \$14,098 payment? Mr. Ammons recommended that at budget time, \$3,000 - \$4,000 be put in contingency in the event of bad weather causing the tournaments to be postponed. This will not affect our bonding indebtedness as this is a lease/purchase.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Ammons stated that Southwood Drive and Cartrell Brown Drive are ready to be paved. The paving of Eutaw Street will begin after March 1<sup>st</sup>, per SCDOT.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE**

Attorney Kenneth Davis had nothing to report at this time.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Mayor Davis stated that Council received the Departmental Reports were sent in their packets.

#### **DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FROM MAYOR**

Councilman Michael Baker had no comment at this time.

Councilman Joseph Frazier asked that the City write a letter to the Highway Department asking why he could not get the speed limit signs he requested. He would like clarification on City employees retiring and being rehired. There is a street light out at the corner of Gasque Street and West Baptist Street and also a basketball goal hanging in the middle of the street and people are complaining about kids playing in the middle of the street Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion that the City send a letter to the State Highway Department and request a response as to ask why we cannot get the two speed limit signs, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried. Mayor Davis asked Mr. Ammons to take care of that.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson commented there are three cars still sitting in the parking lot of the old hospital/Bible College, and have been there since the college closed. Mr. Ammons responded

that he would check the status of the license plates, but if they were current, there was nothing the City could do at this time. If they are not current, the City can have them moved.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson asked for an update on the sale of the Cheezem property, to which Mr. Ammons responded that the buyers needed a few more days and expected to close in January. As soon as the closing date is known, it will be forwarded to Council.

Councilwoman Odessa Gregg commented that residents of District 5 thanked the Mayor and Council for the PDRTA funding. There will be visitors from Rock Hill (including a current council member) coming to Marion on Friday and Councilwoman Gregg will be showing them around Marion and people are beginning to hear about all the good things happening in Marion.

Councilman Emerson Hunt thanked the Marion Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's office for their assistance when he had a break-in. Councilman Hunt commented that with all the improvements Council has made in the Police Department, there has been a change in morale for the good. He encourages our youth to stop and think before they act (there have been 2 deaths of young people in the first seven days of this year). Councilman Hunt commented that overall he believes in the betterment of Marion and that we still live in a great city.

Mayor Bobby Davis thanked the City employees for a job well done in 2014 and is looking forward to a wonderful 2015. Mayor Davis asked that when Council or citizens see employees doing something for the betterment of Marion, they say thank you to those employees. Also, if something is wrong, please call Mr. Ammons, Mayor Davis or leave a message with Ms. Jones at City Hall, so that it can be taken care of. The City is having its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Martin Luther King March on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at the First United Methodist Church and ending at the Door of Hope, with guest speakers Rev. Stan Gibson and Bishop Michael Blue. Congressman Tom Rice has expressed an interest in coming; the Marion County Delegation, the County's police chiefs, the county's four Mayors, sheriff's office, County Council members, City Council members, School Board members, students, fraternities, sororities and the Grand Master for the State of South Carolina Prince Hall Masons have committed to this event. This will be an historical day; this is a unity march. It, not a march for or against anything. We hope everyone will join us for this special event. Our *Swamp Fox Country* show for this month will be filmed at the march. Mayor Davis thanked the Police Department for their hard work and effort in lowering the crime rate; numerous crimes are being solved and tickets are being written. Mayor Davis asked that no one come to him and ask him to "fix" their ticket as he will not. He commented that if you slow down, you won't get a ticket. Good things are going on in Marion County and he thanked the Council for going along and working with things that he and Mr. Ammons present in trying to better the

City of Marion. Mr. Ammons commented that the new City sign in front of the Police Department should be installed before the next Council meeting and we have applied to SCDOT for an encroachment permit for the sign on Hwy 76, as there is no existing sign to replace. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson asked about the City street signs to which Mr. Ammons responded that as soon as we finished our current projects, we can go back and ask for c-fund money for sign replacements. We are compiling a list. Councilman Frazier asked if there could be a community meet & greet with Police Department. Mayor Davis commented that we can make that happen. Mayor Davis asked that Assistant Chief Tinnie and Ms. Pam Jones get together and set this up and we will then notify the public. Assistant Chief Tinnie commented that we now have a radar machine, which was purchased with money we had for a drug dog and we transferred it to the purchase of the radar machine, which will flash the driver's rate of speed. This will help slow down traffic in the school zones. There has been a lot of positive feedback.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Liz Young was not present.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session for a legal update on a personnel matter, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried. Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action was taken.

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

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Mayor Bobby L. Davis

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City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped January 13, 2015