

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARION, ARKANSAS

The Council of the City of Marion, Arkansas met in regular session Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Marion City Hall.

Present:	Frank A. Fogleman	Mayor
	Kelsey Hensley	Councilwoman (1-1)
	David Bigger	Councilman (1-2)
	Cliff Wood	Councilman (2-1)
	Jim Spence	Councilman (2-2)
	Bryan Jackson	Councilman (3-1)
	Sherry Holliman	Councilwoman (3-2)
	David W. Rikard	City Treasurer
	Patty James	City Clerk

Others

Present:	Ed Cain	Planning Commission Consultant
	Brannon Hinkle	Police Chief
	Jon Millsap	Asst. Police Chief
	Andy Rawls	Parks Superintendent
	Gordon Floyd	Streets Superintendent
	Woody Wheelless	Fire Chief

Absent:	James C. Hale III	City Attorney
	Fred Thorne, Jr.	Building Inspector
	Jerry Kelley	Water Superintendent

I.

Councilwoman Holliman made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley, to approve the minutes of September 23, 2021, Council meeting, with the following amendments to the Building Inspector report for January through August:

January miscellaneous permits from 13 to 27
February miscellaneous permits from 15 to 17, bringing year-to-date to 44
March miscellaneous permits from 27 to 49, bringing year-to-date to 93
April miscellaneous permits from 51 to 48, bringing year-to-date to 141
May miscellaneous permits from 35 to 62, bringing year-to-date to 203

June miscellaneous permits from 31 to 30, bringing year-to-date to 233
July miscellaneous permits from 22 to 46, bringing year-to-date to 279
August miscellaneous permits from 17 to 46, bringing year-to-date to 325

II.

Citizens' Concerns: Mrs. P.J. Cox of 835 Blvd Orleans addressed the Council with a compliment to the city for clearing the vacant lots of weeds and overgrowth in her neighborhood. Mrs. Cox made a request for the Police Department to continue patrolling Blvd Orleans to curtail the speeding, in addition to a request for two speed bumps to be installed on L.H. Polk Drive.

III.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: Ed Cain reported the Planning Commission members met on October 5, 2021, and convened as the Marion Board of Adjustment. A public hearing was conducted for a requested 20-foot building set-back variance for a proposed mini storage facility at 4004 Commercial Center Drive. At the completion of the public hearing, the Board of Adjustment voted by unanimous vote to grant the requested variance.

The Planning Commission reviewed and approved a Preliminary Site Plan for a Home 2 Hotel in Angelo's Grove.

There is an agenda for the November 2 meeting.

Water and Sewer: Mayor Fogleman advised that significant progress has been made on the sewer pond levee and installation of the stone around the interior perimeter of the pond. Jerry Kelley and Jack Bond are trying to locate a dredge company to dredge the pond for removal of sludge so the city is not in violation of their ADEQ permit.

Parks and Recreation: Andy Rawls reported that on Friday, October 8, 2021, someone burned down 15 feet of the pier at the Sports Complex. He is in the process of locating someone to fix the pier.

Streets and Drainage: No Report

Sanitation: No Report

Building Inspector: In Fred Thorne, Jr.'s absence, Patty James gave the report. There was 1 new house permit, 0 commercial permits and 56 miscellaneous permits issued for the month of October. That brings year-to-date totals to 31 new house permits, 4 commercial permits and 425 miscellaneous permits. The new house permits indicate a value of \$9.5M in new construction, the new commercial permits reflect \$4.4 construction value and other permits reflect \$2.6M for a total construction value of \$16.6M.

Fire and Police: Councilwoman Hensley reported the Fire and Police Committee met in October and approved two new policies to bring before the Council for final approval. There will be a Fire and Police Committee meeting on Thursday, November 11, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the City Annex.

IV.

Old Business: There were no additional updates for the 188 Hwy 77 purchase.

Mayor Fogleman and City Attorney Hale met with the Entergy representative. Jerome Alford, Bond Engineering, is working on the estimate for water and sewer replacement costs for the Military Road project. Once the estimate is complete, it will be forwarded to ArDot for their review, and a decision will be made concerning the separation of costs for the City of Marion and ArDot.

Councilwoman Holliman made a request concerning pedestrian crossing lanes in front of Walmart. Mayor Fogleman advised that a few citizens have requested a stop light in front of Walmart. Mayor Fogleman will forward the request for pedestrian crossing lanes to ArDot.

Councilwoman Hensley asked if walking lanes and bike lanes can be installed on Hwy 77. Mayor Fogleman advised there are grants for such items. The grants normally consist of an 80-20 match. The City's portion would be 20%.

Gordon Floyd reported he has not received the "break test" results for The Reserve.

V.

New Business: Councilman Bigger made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, to authorize Mayor Fogleman to sign the easement agreement allowing Entergy to run power lines across Fire Station #1. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Bigger made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley, to authorize Chief Hinkle to order three Dodge Durango SUVs and one Dodge Ram Truck for a grand total of \$158,792.00 and for payment to be made in fiscal year 2022. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Fogleman advised that a new position has been added to the Police Department using funds freed up by recent retirements. This employee will focus on property crimes and violent crimes.

Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to approve the proposed policy changes for the "Vehicle Use – Take Home Vehicle" and "Nepotism and Fraternalization" policies. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Fogleman distributed a letter from Sheriff Allen requesting financial assistance from the City of Marion to cover the costs of dispatching calls that the County does for fire and police in Marion. The costs have increased over the years and there is a funding shortfall and the Sheriff is requesting assistance to cover the cost. This subject will be covered at a later date.

Mayor Fogleman advised he has received a letter from Congressman Rick Crawford's office. Senate Bill 3011 has been approved but must pass the House. If the bill passes the House it will allow a broader range for infrastructure needs from the American Rescue Plan.

VI.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Bigger, to authorize Mayor Fogleman to sign the Proclamation for "Small Business Saturday." All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

VII.

Financial Report: Treasurer Rikard noted that the September financials were included in tonight's packet. Rikard informed the Council that the official census numbers have been released and Marion's census increased from 12,345 to 13,752 – an 11.4% increase. The state distributions in October reflect the impact of this change. Rikard pointed out that sales tax numbers for October were released yesterday and they were better than budget by 19.7% for the City portion and 27.6% for the county portion. Total sales tax collections through October 2021 were better than budget by 11.1% for the city portion and better by 13.5% for the county portion. Rikard pointed out that overall general fund revenue collections (excluding grant income) through September were better than budget by approximately \$432,000 and general fund expenditures (excluding capital items) are better than budget by approximately \$382,000. Rikard then opened the floor for questions.

VIII.

Departmental Reports:

Chief Hinkle had nothing further to report.

Gordon Floyd had nothing further to report.

Andy Rawls had nothing further to report.

Ed Cain had nothing further to report.

Chief Wheelless advised that Fred Thorne, Jr. has done an excellent job and has been a great addition to the city.

Tracy Brick invited everyone to the Sultana Fundraiser event being held Saturday, November 6, 2021, at the Mound City Commissary. Tickets will be \$50.00 and are tax deductible.

There being no further business to come before the Council and upon proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk

DRAFT