

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, July 27, 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)
	James C. Hale III	City Attorney
	David W. Rikard	City Treasurer
	Patty James	City Clerk

Others

Present:	Ed Cain	Planning Commission Consultant
	Brannon Hinkle	Police Chief
	John Millsap	Asst. Chief
	Woody Wheelless	Fire Chief
	Andy Rawls	Parks Superintendent
	Fred Thorne, Jr.	Building Inspector
	Gordon Floyd	Streets Superintendent

Absent:	Jerry Kelley	Water Superintendent
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I.

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Holliman, to approve the minutes of June 22, 2021, Council meeting. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

II.

Citizens' Concerns: Mrs. PJ Cox of 835 Blvd Orleans addressed the Council thanking Chief Hinkle and Asst. Chief Millsap for patrolling and pulling people

over for speeding through her neighborhood and requested that the Police Department continue doing so.

Mayor Fogleman presented Councilwoman Holliman with the Adrian White Municipal Leadership Award on behalf of the Arkansas Municipal League. This award recognized Councilwoman Holliman for her six years of dedicated service to the members of the Arkansas Municipal League.

III.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: Ed Cain reported the following:

The Marion Board of Adjustment met on July 13, 2021, and conducted a public hearing for a variance request for building setbacks from property lines in Lot 3 of the Re-plat of Block 1, Elite Lamp Subdivision located at 1139 State Highway 77. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Adjustment voted 7 yeas to 0 nays to grant the variance request.

Upon adjournment of the Board of Adjustment meeting, the Planning Commission was convened and considered the grading and drainage plan for a proposed butcher shop at 1397 Highway 64. The grading and drainage plan was approved contingent upon review and approval of Marion's Consulting Engineer.

There is no agenda for the August 3, 2021, Planning Commission meeting.

Water and Sewer: Report was covered under New Business.

Parks and Recreation: No Report.

Streets and Drainage: Gordon Floyd reported his department has put down 207 tons of asphalt in the past two days.

Sanitation: No Report.

Building Inspector: Fred Thorne, Jr. reported 7 new house permits, 1 commercial permit and 22 miscellaneous permits were issued for the month of July. That brings year-to-date totals to 26 new house permits, 3 commercial permits and 194 miscellaneous permits. To date, there has been a total of \$33,300,000.00 of permits issued by the City.

Fire and Police: SRO Tara Sims attended Safe School class in Little Rock and was awarded the top SRO for the State of Arkansas by the Criminal Justice Institute.

IV.

Old Business: City Attorney Hale gave an update on the 188 Hwy 77 purchase. He had spoken to the seller and there has been a modification made regarding the closing costs. The city is going to pay for the environmental study. If the City receives a clearance letter upon the conclusion of the environmental study, the city will move forward with the purchase of the property.

Mayor Fogleman reported ArDot will schedule a meeting with him and City Attorney Hale next week. The discussion will settle around the ownership of the property involved in the future installation of the water and sewer lines, along with which party will foot the bill for the installation of these lines. Two years ago, the cost was estimated at \$300,000.00 for the installation of the new water and sewer lines. Mayor Fogleman expects that cost to increase.

Mayor Fogleman reported the appraisal company has appraised the Marconi and Williford properties and has made contact with the parties regarding the appraisals.

Mayor Fogleman advised he would like to have an unveiling of the renaming of Maple Street as Chief Gary Kelley Street and invite Charlene and Daniel Kelley and the public to attend. This unveiling will be in recognition of Chief Kelley for his service to the city.

Mayor Fogleman reported the city has received a letter from the State advising the City of Marion will receive \$2,537,021.00 of Covid-19 funds. These funds will be disbursed in two installments. The principal use of the funds will be used for Water and Sewer improvements as well as Broadband Internet Services.

V.

New Business: The city has received a quote from Otto Environmental Systems North America, Inc. for the purchase of new garbage cans. This quote is for \$33,516.00 for the purchase of 500 new garbage cans. Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spence, to

amend the budget by \$33,516.00, and to authorize the ordering and purchasing of 500 (200 black and 300 blue) new garbage cans from Otto Environmental Systems North America, Inc. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

The city has received a quote from Roy Parker in the amount of \$9,700.00 for the demolition of 21 Maple Street along with moving all debris and concrete from this property and the removal of two large trees and one small tree.

The city has received two quotes for the repair of the roof at Fire Station #2. After remodeling of this fire station in 2019; a leak on the west side of the day room has reappeared. Mayor Fogleman advised there will need to be a Police and Fire Committee meeting scheduled in the future. Jerry Kelley will need to attend the meeting to give the committee clarification on the issue and to see if anyone else is responsible for the issue of the roof. If the city is responsible, then the quotes need to be discussed and the city will move forward to fix the problem.

VI.

Resolutions and Ordinances: None

VII.

Financial Report: Treasurer Rikard reported that the May financials were distributed tonight. He informed the Council that the accounting department has made much progress and since last month's meeting. There are only 9 bank accounts with unreconciled balances through May and most of them are small amounts. We are still researching those items so they can be recorded correctly. Rikard pointed out that sales tax revenue collections for June were better than budgeted by 23.6% for the City portion and 20.7% for the county portions. The July sales tax numbers came out Monday and were better than budget by 5.6% for the city portion and 8.3% for the county portion. Total sales tax collections for through July 2021 were better than budget by 11.0% for the city portion and better by 12.9% for the county portion. Rikard pointed out that overall general fund revenue collections through May were worse than budget by approximately \$14,000. Property tax collections are behind through May by approximately \$240,000, but we received \$307,000 in June which brings them better than budget through June. General fund expenditures through were better than budget by approximately \$200,000. As mentioned earlier, the city received the

first half of the 2021 COVID funds this week totaling \$1,271,870. 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.

Danny Bowden had nothing further to report.

Woody Wheelless had nothing further to report.

Fred Thorne, Jr. had nothing further to report.

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, to suspend the meeting at 7:52 p.m. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Councilman Spence made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley, to reconvene the Council meeting and upon proper motion from Councilman Bigger, seconded by Councilman Spence, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk