

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, January 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Marion City Hall.

Present:	Tracy Brick	Mayor
	Kelsey Hensley	Councilwoman (1-1)
	Adam Cupples	Councilman (1-2)
	Cliff Wood	Councilman (2-1)
	Taylor Guy	Councilman (2-2)
	Bryan Jackson	Councilman (3-1)
	Ray Nassar	Councilman (3-2)
	Chris Crain	City Attorney
	David W. Rikard	City Treasurer
	Patty James	City Clerk

Others

Present:	Fred Thorne, Jr.	Planning Commission & Building Inspector
	Brannon Hinkle	Police Chief
	Jon Millsap	Asst. Police Chief
	Jerry Kelley	Water Superintendent
	Andy Rawls	Parks Superintendent
	Woody Wheelless	Fire Chief

I.

Councilman Jackson made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley, to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2022, regular Council meeting. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Nassar made a motion, seconded by Councilman Guy, to approve the minutes of December 15, 2022, Special Council meeting. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

II.

Citizens' Concerns: Tom Clark addressed the Council concerning the repairs made on Westlake Road going into River Trace. He advised that the road is washing out and there is asphalt and concrete that need to be cleaned up.

Mayor Brick advised once the weather clears and the personnel are in place this will be taken care of.

James Wilson addressed the Council concerning the speeding on Shiloh Drive. He advised the speeding is worse early morning and late afternoon. Asst. Police Chief Millsap will relay this information to his patrol officers so they can follow up on the matter.

Councilwoman Hensley asked Asst. Chief Millsap to look at the house at the corner of Block Street and Highwood. There is an issue with the fence possibly blocking the view of drivers coming up to the stop sign. Asst Chief Millsap, and Building Inspector Thorne, will look into the issue.

III.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: Mayor Brick advised upon the Ed Cain's retirement at the end of this past year, Fred Thorne, Jr. will be taking over the position of the Planning Commission Secretary.

Fred Thorne, Jr. conducted the December 6, 2022, Planning Commission meeting in Ed Cain's absence. The final site plan for expansion done on the convenience store located at 3361 West I-55 Service Road was approved by the Planning Commission.

Jack Bond did a revised site plan on a piece of property on Highway 77, and the Planning Commission approved it.

There was no January Planning Commission meeting.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2023, and there is an agenda.

Water and Sewer: Jerry Kelley reported there are issues with the pumping stations. Councilman Wood asked Jerry Kelley to get all the information together and they will schedule a Water and Sewer Committee meeting.

Parks and Recreation: Andy Rawls reported there will be a Chuck Wagon Benefit to be held on February 18, 2023. This will be an all-day event at the Sports Complex and is a benefit for the veterans.

Streets and Drainage: Mayor Brick reported that Steve Johnson will be our new Public Works Director and will begin work on February 1, 2023.

Sanitation: No Report.

Building Inspector: Fred Thorne, Jr. reported 1 new house permit, 0 commercial permits and 4 miscellaneous permits were issued for the month of December. That brings year-to-date totals to 45 new house permits, 3 commercial permits and 292 miscellaneous permits, for a grand total of \$23,636,811.08 in construction.

There were 6 new house permits, 0 commercial permits and 11 miscellaneous permits were issued for the month of January, for a grand total of \$2,351,503.85 in construction.

Fire and Police: Councilwoman Hensley scheduled a Police and Fire Committee meeting for Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the City Annex.

IV.

Old Business: Military Road Update – Mayor Brick reported she has contacted ArDot and there is no utility work being done at present. The bid date for the Military Road widening has been changed to February 2024. Mayor Brick has met with Jerome Alford of Bond Engineering. He will provide costs for relocating the water and sewer lines east of Cherry Street to the corner. Mayor Brick may be able to negotiate with ArDot over the movement of the water and sewer lines and the right turning lane at Highway 77 and Military Road once all costs are tabulated.

Overpass Update – Mayor Brick has scheduled a meeting for Friday, January 27, 2023, with Wayne Marconi and his attorney Larry Jackson. No offers will be made, this will be a fact-finding meeting. The city must own this parcel in order, to put the overpass project out for bid.

Mayor Brick reminded elected officials to turn in their financial interest forms by January 31, 2023. These forms must be notarized and turned into Gail Tankersley at City Hall.

V.

New Business: Mayor Brick went over the City Council committee appointments. The sheet with the appointments were included in the Council packets.

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley, to accept Mayor Brick's recommendation for Debbie Reginelli's appointment to the Planning Commission. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Brick brought before the Council a memo from Mayor Fogleman advising he had neglected to get approval from the Council at the July 26, 2022, Council meeting, for a pay raise for the City Treasurer. This would increase the annual salary from \$30,000.00 to \$36,000.00. His request is to make this retroactive from first pay period following the July 26, 2022, Council meeting. Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cupples, to approve the increase and make the increase retroactive for City Treasurer Rikard. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Brick advised the current Advertising and Promotional tax is one cent on prepared food and overnight lodging. The current rules and statues allow this tax to be used on public recreation. Mayor Brick would like the Council to consider raising the Advertising and Promotional tax by one cent. In order, to do this, the Council must approve this by an ordinance. By increasing the one cent increase the Council could dedicate this toward the Parks Master Plan. She would like to bring an ordinance before the Council in February to increase this tax.

Councilwoman Hensley voiced her concern about pressuring the State to install a stop light at L.H. Polk and Highway 77. This intersection is located at the Neighborhood Walmart. Fred Thorne, Jr. advised it is difficult to get the state to install a stop light. Mayor Brick advised a study has been completed and the City of Marion was advised they didn't meet the traffic count for a stop light. The city was told to install reduce the speed signs.

VI.

Resolutions and Ordinances: Mayor Brick brought to the floor and read the title of a resolution titled **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RULES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF MEETINGS OF THE MARION CITY COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES** which establishes the rules of operation for Marion City Council meetings. Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Guy, that the resolution be adopted. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion. The resolution was numbered 2023-01.

Mayor Brick brought to the floor and read the title of a resolution titled **A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ESTABLISHING NEW BANK ACCOUNTS AND ESTABLISHING SECURITY AND PLEDGE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARION AND BANKING INSTITUTIONS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023**, which permits the Mayor and Treasurer to open any needed new bank accounts and sign related paperwork and to sign any needed paperwork to secure pledge agreements for city deposits. Councilman Jackson made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley that the resolution be adopted. All Council member present voted in favor of the motion. The resolution was numbered 2023-02.

VII.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rikard noted that the December financials were distributed tonight. December sales tax collections were better than budget by 17.1% for the City portion and better than budget by 33.2% for the County portion. That results in year-to-date collections through December better than budget by 6.1% for the City portion and 19.0% for the County portion. In dollars that amounts to approximately \$369,000.00 of collections in excess of budget. Rikard pointed out that overall general fund revenue collections (excluding grant income) through December were better than budget by approximately \$374,000.00 and general fund expenditures (excluding capital items and grant expenditures) are worse than budget by approximately \$590,000.00. January sales tax collections were recently released and they were better than budget by 8.38% for the City portion and better than budget by 1.55% for the County portion. Rikard then opened the floor for questions.

Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cupples, to accept the Financial Report. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

VIII.

Departmental Reports:

Andy Rawls had nothing further to report.

Brannon Hinkle had nothing further to report.

Jerry Kelley had nothing further to report.

Fred Thorne, Jr. had nothing further to report.

Woody Wheelless advised that he and Fred Thorne, Jr. had met with Ladd Garey concerning the drawings for Fire Station No. 1 with renovation and add on plans. Ladd is still working on coming up with plans that will be suitable for the City to use.

There being nothing further to come before the Council, Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Nassar, to adjourn the Council meeting at 8:02 p.m. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk