

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, February 22, 2022, 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
	Jon Millsap	Asst. Police Chief
	Woody Wheeless	Fire Chief
	Fred Thorne, Jr.	Building Inspector
	Jerry Kelley	Water Superintendent
	Andy Rawls	Parks Superintendent
	Gordon Floyd	Streets Superintendent

I.

Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Holliman, to approve the minutes of January 25, 2022, regular Council meeting. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

II.

Citizens' Concerns: None

III.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: Ed Cain reported there was no Planning Commission meeting in February, due to no agenda. The next Planning Commission meeting will be Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Spence reported the Water and Sewer Committee met three times this past month concerning the sewer issue on River Trace Drive. This was covered later in the meeting during Old Business.

Parks and Recreation: Andy Rawls reported that \$14,000.00 had previously been approved in the budget for his department to order a new lawn mower. Prices have increased and he needs approval for an additional \$500.00 in funding to purchase a new mower. Councilman Bigger made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley, to amend the budget and approve up to \$15,000.00 for the purchase of a new lawn mower for the Parks Department. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Streets and Drainage: Councilwoman Holliman reported the Street and Drainage Committee met on February 10, 2022. Gordon Floyd advised his department will be ordering some new garbage trucks. Councilman Wood had requested for Floyd to get quotes for two year and three years leases and compare those quotes. This information was covered later in the meeting under New Business.

Sanitation: Mayor Fogleman reported that the leases were up on two knuckleboom trucks and one automated truck. Gordon Floyd had made a request to possibly purchase a small walk behind truck for recycling. This was covered later in the meeting under New Business.

Building Inspector: Fred Thorne, Jr. reported 1 new house permit, 0 commercial permits and 12 miscellaneous permits were issued for February. The new house permits indicate a value of \$345,000.00 in new construction and other permits reflect \$118,630.00, for a total construction value of \$463,630.00 for the month of February. That brings year-to-date totals to 5 new house permits, 0 commercial permits and 19 miscellaneous permits.

Fire and Police: No Report.

IV.

Old Business: Military Road Update – No new additional information.

Overpass Update – There is no progress with the property owner on the appraisal. Councilman Jackson made a request that Mayor Fogleman request that Universal Field Services provide a status email to the Council.

Sewer Update – B & B Utility will be doing the sewer line project at River Trace Drive and Riverwind Drive. The estimated cost for installing 800 feet of new sewer line is \$46,090.00. Councilman Bigger made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley, to approve the \$46,090.00, and to be prepared to amend the budget later, if there is a material price change. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Fire Station No. 1 Renovation – Ladd Garey of Evans, Taylor, Foster, Childress Architects gave a proposal to the city for an expansion of 3,600 square feet and renovation of 4,000 square feet for Fire Station No. 1. His firm's fee for the project would be \$86,000.00. Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, to move forward with the purchase (\$86,000.00) of the plans from Evans, Taylor, Foster, Childress Architects, and to use bond money funds. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

New Water Department Renovation - Mayor Fogleman reported the dry wall has been repaired and painted and the new counter has been installed. The bullet-resistant glass has been ordered but has not been delivered and installed. Fred Thorne, Jr. advised the security key fobs have been ordered and will cost \$1,994.00 for the added security system. This system can track who comes in and out.

V.

New Business: Johnny Coleman came before the Council to make a request for approval from the Council to allow builders to pour monolithic slabs in Marion. Mr. Coleman advised that monolithic slabs are a faster process, better pour, sturdy and affordable. Coleman advised in March, 2021, the Planning Commission recommended approval for monolithic slabs to be poured in Marion. An ordinance will be required from the Council because, in previous years, monolithic slabs were not allowed to be poured in Marion. Mr. Coleman and Mr. Sullivan will assist Fred Thorne, Jr. in obtaining paperwork to assist the city in passing an ordinance for monolithic pour slabs.

Mayor Fogleman reported he has received a quote from A & R Construction for \$22,750.00 to install a glass and metal vestibule around Fire Station No. 2. After discussion, it was decided an advertisement would be run in the newspaper for bids on the project.

During the October 26, 2021, Council meeting, the Council authorized Mayor Fogleman to sign the easement agreement allowing Entergy to run power lines across Fire Station #1. Now, Entergy is requesting an easement across city property at Military Road and Briarwood St. (aka the old gym and the future home of the Sultana Disaster Museum). Council members were provided a drawing showing a proposal of where the lines would be run and poles placed. Entergy is proposing placing one pole at the southeast corner near Currie Avenue and is requesting approval to do so. Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Bigger, to authorize Mayor Fogleman to give Entergy the right-of-way with a caveat to reserve the right to have underground lines installed. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Fogleman reported that Fred Thorne, Jr. has contacted Code Red, a company that uses a data base to send out messaging and alerts for weather, fire, police, etc. Code Red offers 24-hour support system. A one- year contract will cost \$9,043.00. The city is looking into using this system to assist with the aging tornado sirens and any other alerts that the city might want to provide to citizens.

A Marion citizen, named Jim Hall, has approached Mayor Fogleman asking for a \$5,000.00 donation for the travelling Vietnam Memorial Wall that will be coming to Crawfordsville, Arkansas, with the anticipated opening date on April 6th and ending April 10, 2022. This is being referred to the Advertising and Promotional Committee for possible contribution.

Councilman Bigger made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, to authorize Gordon Floyd to order two knuckle-boom trucks, one automated garbage truck and a small rear-loading garbage truck from River City Hydraulics and to allow Treasurer Rikard to check into local financing options for the four trucks. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

The city advertised for audit services and received one bid. The bid was from Watkins-Uberall, whom the city has used for past audits. Watkins-Uberall gave proposals for one year and three years for auditing services. Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Holliman, to accept the three-year proposal from Watkins-Uberall. The year 2021 audit would cost \$36,000.00, the 2022 audit would cost \$37,000.00, and the 2023 audit would cost \$38,000.00. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilwoman Holliman distributed an email advising how a community center can enhance a community. She would like the Council to consider the possibility of a community center and to discuss it at the next Council meeting.

VI.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Mayor Fogleman brought to the floor an ordinance amending water rates annually in the City of Marion. Councilman Jackson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spence, to read the proposed ordinance by title only. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

City Attorney Hale read the following Ordinance by title only:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NOS. 204, 571 AND 573 OF THE CITY OF MARION, ARKANSAS IN ORDER TO FIX RATES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF MARION, ARKANSAS, TO BE CHARGED FOR WATER SERVICES.

Councilman Bigger made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spence, that the proposed ordinance be adopted on the second reading. On roll call, the following votes were recorded: Hensley-aye, Bigger-aye, Spence-aye, Wood-aye, Jackson-aye and Holliman-aye.

The proposed ordinance will be put on the March Council meeting agenda for consideration.

Ed Cain reported at the February, 2021, Planning Commission meeting there was a recommendation that the Council amend their zoning regulations, specifically secondary housing, also known as granny flats. There has been an issue with secondary housing and short-term rentals. An ordinance to define and regulate secondary dwelling units will be put on the agenda for the March Council meeting.

VII.

Financial Report: Treasurer Rikard noted that the January financials were included in tonight's packet. He also pointed out that the budget has not yet been loaded into the financial software; this will be loaded by the next meeting. January sales tax collections were worse than budget by 1.8% for the City portion and better than budget by 28.1% for the County portion. Rikard pointed out that overall general fund revenue collections (excluding grant income) for January were worse than budget by approximately \$60,000 and general fund expenditures (excluding capital items) are better than budget by approximately \$185,000. Rikard then opened the floor for questions.

VIII.

Departmental Reports:

Chief Hinkle had nothing further to report.

Andy Rawls had nothing further to report.

Ed Cain had nothing further to report.

Chief Wheelless had nothing further to report.

Fred Thorne, Jr. had nothing further to report.

Gordon Floyd had nothing further to report.

Jerry Kelley reported he needs approval for an additional \$500.00 for a mower because of price increases. Councilman Spence made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, to amend the budget by \$500.00 from \$9,300.00 to \$9,800.00 to allow the purchase of a lawn mower for Jerry Kelley's department.

There being no further business to come before the Council and upon proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk