

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARION, ARKANSAS

The Council of the City of Marion, Arkansas met in regular session Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at Marion City Hall.

Present:	Frank A. Fogleman	Mayor
	Kelly O'Neal	Councilman (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 Hale III	City Attorney
	David W. Rikard	City Treasurer
	Patty James	City Clerk

Others

Present:	Ed Cain	City Planning Consultant
	Gordon Floyd	Streets and Sanitation
	Jim Shempert	Water Superintendent
	Andy Rawls	Parks Superintendent
	Gary Kelley	Police Chief
	Woody Wheelless	Fire Chief
	Jerry Kelley	Building Inspector
	Phyllis May	City Bookkeeper

I.

Councilman Wood made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2018, Council meeting with one correction. Under the Financial Report's last paragraph, to authorize \$2,000.00 annually for six Council members, as well as the City Attorney, City Treasurer and City Clerk for travel and training. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

II.

Citizens' Concerns: Mayor Fogleman welcomed Sherry Holliman to the City Council.

Chelsea Long and Ginger Nemenz from the Crittenden County Young Life Organization addressed the Council. Crittenden County Young Life was started in 2009. Their goal is to point children in our community to Jesus. Alex Blankenship advised their fund-raising Banquet will be February 18, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at ASU Midsouth.

Renee Conrad came before the Council with concerns about the crime in our community. She wanted to know how many officers were employed full time and what the City was doing to recruit new officers. Chief Kelley advised there are 4 -5 officers per shift and there are currently two officers in the Police Academy and two additional officers will be going to the Police Academy soon. Mayor Fogleman advised the City would be looking into budgetary ways to possibly increase the salaries. Chief Kelley responded to Conrad's accusation that the public is not informed of the crime in our City. Kelley advised that Assistant Chief Burns sends the crime info to *The Evening Times* every 24 hours.

Former Marion Police Officer Thomas Manning praised the Marion Police Department as well as Chief Kelley and Asst. Chief Burns. His only issue with the department was salary. He would have loved to have stayed with the Marion Police Department. Manning's concern, was what the City is doing to raise the pay for police officers? Mayor Fogleman advised the City is going to have to cut costs in other areas of the budget in order to provide raises without raising taxes.

Stefanie Dostal owns a pool business in Marion. She is now afraid to enter residents' yards for fear of being shot, because she fears homeowners will think she is a burglar. Ms. Dostal's second concern was the City Animal Shelter. She feels it is understaffed and does not have enough space. A solution might be to have trustees work at the shelter parttime.

Callie Hedrick addressed the Council with her concerns in keeping Police Officers. Are their concerns being addressed, such as complaints, etc.,

Tom Green of 182 N. George Circle had concerns about the property at 179 N. George Circle. There are certain procedures that have to be followed before the City can intervene. Building Inspector-Jerry Kelley advised that letters have been sent to the property owner and their time is almost up. Kelley reported that this situation is going to be taken care of very soon.

Resident James Hudson addressed everyone present. How many of you know your neighbor? How many of you stay in close touch with your neighbor (s)? How many of you have a neighborhood association? There are things that each of one of us can do as citizens to protect our community. Organize a block party, revitalize the neighborhood watch program, etc.,

Citizen Archie Ray voiced his concern about the drain going west on Military Road near Cypress. He feels it is very dangerous. Gordon Floyd will make sure it is repaired.

Lastly, another citizen voiced their concern about the sinkhole on Charleston Cove. Mayor Fogleman advised that the City is aware of the problem and is working on the issue. It is a very complex issue that will entail tearing up some yards to fix the problem.

III.

Planning Commission: Ed Cain reported that the Planning Commission had no agenda for the January meeting, therefore, there was no meeting in January. Cain advised there is an agenda for the February 5, 2019, Planning Commission meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex.

Water and Sewer: No report. At Councilman Spence's request, Mayor Fogleman scheduled a Water and Sewer Committee Meeting for Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Annex.

Parks and Recreation: Andy Rawls reported the concrete work on the west side of the lake is completed and looks good. His department will do the seeding and fixing the ruts once the weather cooperates. There are fourteen tournaments on the calendar starting the last of February and going through June 2019.

Streets and Drainage: No report.

Sanitation: No report. Councilman Jackson scheduled a Sanitation Committee Meeting for Tuesday, February 26, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Annex.

Fire and Police: Councilman O'Neal reported that the Fire and Police Committee met last month and discussed the new addition for the Police Station. The Committee is currently looking at another option.

Building Inspector: Jerry Kelley reported 3 new house permits, 1 commercial permit and 13 miscellaneous permits were issued for the month of December. That brings year-to-date totals to 29 new house permits, 8 commercial permits and 332 miscellaneous permits. January 2019, had 0 new house permits, 0 commercial permits and 3 miscellaneous permits.

IV.

Old Business: The Workers' Compensation renewal is in place with Pearson Insurance, and the down payment has been made.

V.

New Business: None

VI.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Fogleman brought to the floor and read the title of a resolution titled **A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2018 BUDGET** to the floor for discussion. This amends the 2018 budget to reflect the \$368,900.00 total changes in the 2018 budget. Councilman Spence moved, with Councilman Bigger seconding, that the resolution be adopted. All present voted aye. The resolution was numbered 2018-06.

Fogleman 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 moved, with Councilman Spence seconding, that the resolution be adopted. All present voted aye. The resolution was numbered 2019-01.

Fogleman 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 31, 2019 which permits the mayor and the 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 Wood moved, with Councilman Jackson seconding, to adopt the resolution. All present voted aye. The resolution was numbered 2019-02.

Fogleman brought to the floor and read the title of a resolution titled **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARION, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TWELVE (12) MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019, AND APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH AND EVERY ITEM OF EXPENDITURE THEREIN** which established the budget for calendar year 2019. After much discussion, Councilman Spence moved, with Councilman Bigger seconding, to adopt the resolution. With five-ayes, and 1 nay, the resolution was adopted. The resolution is numbered 2019-03.

VII.

Financial Report: Treasurer Rikard reported the December financials have been previously distributed to the Council. Rikard pointed out that the sales tax revenue collections for December for the City portion were better than budget by 8.1% and the County portion was worse than budget by 6.8%. For the year 2018, the City sales tax collections were better than budget by 3.3% and the County portion of the collections were worse than budget by 0.4%. Rikard noted that year-to-date revenue for the general fund is better than budget by \$314,000.00 and general fund expenditures were better than budget by \$191,000.00.

Rikard also reminded the Council members that their 2018 W-2s are in their packet and that annual Financial Disclosure forms must be notarized and are due to the City Clerk no later than January 31, 2019.

Rikard then opened the floor for questions.

VIII.

Departmental Reports:

Ed Cain had nothing further to report.

Jim Shempert had nothing further to report.

Andy Rawls had nothing further to report.

Gordon Floyd had nothing further to report.

Jerry Kelley had nothing further to report.

Chief Kelley had nothing further to report.

There being no further business to come before the Council and upon proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk