

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, September 27, 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)
	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
	Woody Wheelless	Fire Chief
	Fred Thorne, Jr.	Building Inspector
	Gordon Floyd	Streets Superintendent
	Andy Rawls	Parks Superintendent

Absent:	Cliff Wood	Councilman (2-1)
	James C. Hale III	City Attorney
	Brannon Hinkle	Police Chief
	Jon Millsap	Asst. Police Chief
	Jerry Kelley	Water Superintendent

I.

Councilman Spence made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Holliman, to approve the minutes of August 23, 2022, regular 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 with appreciation for the citizens of Marion that are serving the public: Council members, police officers, and any other public servants.

Lisa O'Neal addressed the Council concerning broken slides, graffiti on the slides, and a need for new mulch at Brunetti Field. Molly Hoffman of "Moms of Marion" contacted Andy Rawls, and he has ordered the new slides and new mulch for Brunetti Field.

Clayton and Lynette Sullivan of 12 Lynn Cove in Hardin Village, addressed the Council concerning excessive speeding in their neighborhood. There are many children and senior citizens out in the neighborhood. Mr. Sullivan made a request for speed bumps to be placed coming into his neighborhood. Mayor Fogleman advised that speed bumps, for the most part, do not deter speeders, and they hinder first responders. In the past, the Police Department has increased patrols and written tickets to speeders in the areas where speeding is a problem. Mayor Fogleman will contact Chief Hinkle to set up patrols in Hardin Village for an extended time.

III.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission met on September 6 with five members present. Two petitioners requested to be on the agenda for this meeting; however, both withdrew their proposals the day of the meeting. The only official business conducted on September 6 was approval of the August meeting minutes.

There is an agenda for the October 4, 2022, meeting.

Water and Sewer: Mayor Fogleman reported the new Water Department Building has had an issue with the glass enclosure that surrounds the area where the office staff meet the public, and that is being corrected.

There has been an issue with meter readings. Mayor Fogleman and Jerry Kelley have met with a representative of Badger Utility Company and that is currently being corrected.

The work that was done on the sewer pond to alleviate the erosion and the installation of the two new aerators has been successful, and the City is operating within the limits that Department of Environmental Quality requires.

Parks and Recreation: Andy Rawls reported the new slides were ordered six weeks ago and no timeframe has been given on delivery of the equipment. He has also ordered a load of mulch.

Rawls advised that the Parks Department was not selected for the matching grant the City submitted to the State of Arkansas Parks and Tourism for the renovation of K & R Park.

Streets and Drainage: Gordon Floyd reported that his department is going to add another layer of asphalt and widen Marion Lake Road by 12 inches on each side and has widened the shoulder by 12 – 14 feet.

Councilwoman Hensley advised that there is a need to communicate to the community when work is being done and a timeframe for the work, so the City can be ahead of social media bashers. The City needs to protect their brand. Currently, the Chamber of Commerce Facebook page communicates this information. In the future, the Department Heads will communicate to Cheryl Starling any projects that the City will be working on, and provide updates to her, so this information can be communicated on the Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. By keeping the community informed, this should alleviate some of the social media bashing.

Sanitation: A Sanitation Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Building Inspector: Fred Thorne, Jr. reported 6 new house permits, 0 commercial permits and 18 miscellaneous permits were issued in September. The new house permits indicate a value of \$1,674,000.00 in new construction, and other permits reflect \$215,891.79 for a total construction value of \$1,889,89.79. That brings year-to-date totals to 43 new house permits, 3 commercial permits and 262 miscellaneous permits.

Fire and Police: Chief Wheelless reported the second bucket has arrived for the ladder truck.

IV.

Old Business: Military Road Update – No new updates.

Overpass Update – The Marconi family attorney is attempting to locate an appraiser in Northeast Arkansas.

Property at SW corner of intersection at I-55 & Hwy 64 - Fred Thorne, Jr. met with Attorney Tom Donaldson and the owner. The owner is wanting to

change the original site plans by adding a section on the north side of the building. To do so, he will have to get approval from the Planning Commission. Mr. Cain's contact information has been given to the owner to follow up with Mr. Cain. The owner advised that the contractor will have the trash cleaned up by next week.

Mayor Fogleman requested that Ed Cain and Fred Thorne, Jr. have a site review with the owner.

Crittenden County Sheriff's Office dispatch services-Fire & Police – City Attorney Hale attended the Quorum Court meeting last week with a proposal from the City. The City of Marion is proposing the city pay up to \$50,000.00 annually toward Marion's proportionate share of the cost overrun to operate the dispatch services for the City of Marion Fire and Police Departments to Crittenden County. The County is proposing that the City of Marion pay up to \$100,000.00 annually for the City's proportionate part of the cost overrun to operate dispatch services for Marion Fire and Police Departments. City Attorney Hale will continue to negotiate with Joe Rogers with Crittenden County. There should be a proposal on the agenda next month for Council's approval.

V.

New Business: Mayor Fogleman advised there are some vacancies on the Advertising and Promotional Committee. He nominated, for Council confirmation, Michael Rushing of Cypress View Recreation, Jimmy Ngo of Seafood Shack and Matt Thompson as a re-appointment. Councilman Bigger made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, to approve the nominees. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

VI.

Resolutions and Ordinances: The Resolution of Diversity and Inclusion was tabled and will be put on the October Council Agenda for consideration.

A draft Ordinance Establishing the Offense of Inattentive Driving will be put on the October Council Agenda for consideration.

A draft Ordinance to Reduce Incidents of False Alarms Which Cause the Marion Police Department to be Dispatched will be put on the October Council Agenda for consideration.

Mayor Fogleman reminded Council members of the memo he sent out concerning the Retail Water Provider Board Training Act 605 of 2021. This is an eight-hour training class. There is a “grandfathering” provision that allows an exemption from training for any Council members on the Water and Sewer Committee that have served on the Water & Sewer Committee for 10 years or more.

VII.

Financial Report: Treasurer Rikard noted that the August financials were distributed tonight. August sales tax collections were better than budget by 6.6%, for the City portion and better than budget by 10.9%, for the County portion. September sales tax collections were recently released and they were better than budget by 10.8%, for the City portion and better than budget by 22.1%, for the County portion. That results in year-to-date collections through September better than budget by 6.0%, for the city portion and 18.5%, for the county portion. In dollars that amounts to approximately \$268,000.00 of collections in excess of budget. Rikard pointed out that overall general fund revenue collections (excluding grant income) through August were better than budget by approximately \$333,000.00, and general fund expenditures (excluding capital items) are worse than budget by approximately \$101,00000. Rikard then opened the floor for questions.

VIII.

Departmental Reports:

Ed Cain had nothing further to report.

Andy Rawls had nothing further to report.

Fred Thorne, Jr. had nothing further to report.

Woody Wheelless had nothing further to report.

Mayor Fogleman advised Department Heads to have their budget needs for next year ready for future budget meetings.

There being no further business to come before the Council and upon proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk