

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARION, ARKANSAS

The City of Marion, Arkansas met in special session on Monday, August 8, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at Rikard & Neal CPAs, PLLC, 117 Military Road, Marion, Arkansas.

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)
	David W. Rikard	City Treasurer
	Patty James	City Clerk
Absent:	Cliff Wood	Councilman (2-1)
	Sherry Holliman	Councilwoman (3-2)
	James C. Hale III	City Attorney
Others		
Present:	Glenda Caton	Human Resources Rep. City of Marion

I.

Councilman Spence made a motion, seconded by Councilman Bigger, to suspend the reading and approval of the minutes from the previous Council meeting. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

II.

New Business:

Mayor Fogleman advised the purpose of the meeting was to select a renewal proposal for health insurance for city employees and the broker that will provide broker services related to the health insurance policy. This will be for the period of September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023. Also, the Council will select a proposal for the remodeling of Fire Station No. 1.

Treasurer Rikard advised the Council of the three carriers that had provided quotes for covering employees as well as spouses and/or children. Cigna Healthcare, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Arkansas, and United Healthcare were the competing carriers. The City of Marion provides the employee's health insurance coverage at no cost to the employee and allows employees to add health insurance for a spouse

or child at charge to the employee via payroll deduction. The employee must bear the cost of coverage on their spouse and/or children. Ms. Caton advised that, as well as choosing an insurance carrier, the City must select a broker to handle administrative services for the employees and the City with the insurance provider.

After much discussion, Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Bigger, that the City renew their health insurance coverage with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Arkansas, and select the Stephens Firm in Little Rock to be our broker, effective September 1, 2022; and, as our broker, try to negotiate better terms with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Arkansas. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion. Unless a better rate can be negotiated the health insurance renewal will be \$484.74 per employee per month.

The next item discussed was the remodeling proposals of Fire Station No. 1 and which option, of the two, to go with. After discussion, Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Bigger, to authorize Ladd Garey to provide the drawings for option 1 phase I, the expansion of Fire Station No. 1 by 3,969 sq. ft. and renovation of the existing 4,200 sq. ft., along with phase II addition of 2 bays on the north side of the existing building with an additional 1,440 sq. ft. for a total cost of \$2,673,150.00. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Lastly, Mayor Fogleman brought before the Council, as an FYI, the pension payments for the retired firefighters group. Currently, the City, issues 10 checks, an average of \$300.00 each, per month to 7 members and 2 widows and one divorcee. There is discussion concerning the Retired Fire Fighters Pension Board (Local Plan) accepting a proposal for the Local Board to relinquish the administrative duties and the investment responsibilities for the Local Board to the State of Arkansas' Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI). There are pros and cons of going forward with joining LOPFI. As a note, Fogleman advised that, once the group is under 5 members, current statutes require that the Local Plan surrender its responsibilities to LOPFI. There will be a resolution in the Council packets for the August Council meeting to consider the option of joining LOPFI.

There being no further business to come before the Council and upon proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

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Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk