

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.**

The Marion City Council met in Regular Session on May 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Taylor Davis, Bobby Belt, Dwight Sherer and Mike Byford. City Employees in attendance were as follows: Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Chief Bobby West, Fire Chief Howton and Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer. A public sign-in sheet is attached and made part of these minutes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Sue Ledford and a group of women from the Extension Group requested the mayor's permission to paint several city fire hydrants in a patriotic theme. Mayor Browning advised she would like some time to think about it before making her decision.

Jack Easley, a resident of Bridwell Loop, requested that the portion of Bridwell Loop within the City Limits be paved.

Rhonda Horack, a resident of East Bellville Street, praised the new asphalt in town.

A motion was made by Taylor Davis, seconded by Randy Dunn to approve the minutes from April 15, 2024. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Wanda Olson, seconded by Randy Dun to approve the minutes from April 22, 2024. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Dwight Sherer sponsored Ordinance 24-02 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF MARION KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 07/01/2024 THROUGH 06/30/2025 BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT". Bobby Belt requested to know where the money would come from if the Tourism budget showed a deficit. Diane Ford-Benningfield explained. The Mayor and Dwight Sherer also mentioned that the board (tourism) was created by the City of Marion Mayor and Council.

Mike Byford sponsored Ordinance 24-03 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PAY PLAN FOR CLASSIFIED CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED OFFICIALS". Mayor Browning pointed out that each employee would receive a 3.4% salary increase, apart from the city administrator who opted out of an increase and two positions that were raised by 14% to have their hourly rate be \$15 per hour. Mike Byford asked Diane Ford-Benningfield if the intern from the local high school would be hired full time, in which case she advised no.

A motion was made by Bobby Belt, seconded by Wanda Olson to pass Resolution 24-02, which enrolls the City of Marion into the Municipal Aid Co-op Program. All voting members voted yes. Resolution passed.

Bart Frazer then briefed the council on the updated information regarding medical cannabis. Bobby Belt advised that he has gotten negative feedback. Mayor Browning advised she would like to have a town forum regarding medical cannabis.

A motion was made by Mike Byford, seconded by Randy Dunn to purchase the utility software programming needed in city hall. Diane explained that our current system has an "end of life" nearing. All members of the Council voted yes. Motion carried.

Tim Thomas advised that the recent rain has impacted the work on the coffer dam project. He advised MSI has been working to dewater and expose the cast iron pipe, he advised they had been using an undersized pump. He advised we have almost reached the estimated budget of 3.6 million dollars, but that the road work added to the total cost. He advised this is all been approved by the state and would be fully reimbursed by Kentucky Emergency Management. There was a brief discussion on the CDBG application which would mainly be used for the clearwells update and the replacement of water mains. Mr. Thomas added that he read a letter to the editor in the previous weeks paper that was misinforming the community. He mentioned that yes, there was a plan for the city to partner with Princeton Water service and while it may have been the cheaper project in total there was not enough customer base, and the water would not be affordable to the customers. He advised that not only is having clean water important but having affordable water is as well. He said he came into this situation independently and that he and the State of Kentucky, who studied both plans, came to the same conclusion that CLWD was the more affordable option to its customers.

The mayor then called a special called meeting on May 28, 2024, at 5PM for the second reading of Ordinances 24-02 and 24-03.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Byford advised the ditch in front of Siemen's needs mowing. He advised the trailer park on First Street had very high grass. He also mentioned that it would be a good idea for the city to ask the county to widen Old Morganfield Rd. near the City/County Park, Diane Ford-Benningfield advised she would speak with someone at the county.

Bobby Belt requested to know when the new sewer plant would be operational. Diane advised that the recent weather has caused a delay. She also advised that she would speak with Alan Robinson with Eclipse Engineering and request he be at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

Dwight Sherer advised there is a residence at 224 E. Elm Street with very high grass.

Taylor Davis advised he thought the cannabis forum the Mayor mentioned would be very informative for our community.

Wanda Olson advised there was a large brick fixture in the creek on N Maple Street.

Randy Dunn advised the lot at the intersection of Chapel Hill Rd and S. Main St needed to be mowed.

Mayor Browning advised we have received good news regarding a new recycling center and that it should be up and running within the next two weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM.


D'ANNA BROWNING, MAYOR


ATTEST: LAYTEN CROFT, ASST. CITY CLERK