

**Meeting of the Marion City Council**  
**Monday, February 10, 2025, at 5:00 P.M**

The Marion City Council met in regular session on February 10, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Taylor Davis, Dwight Sherer, Bobby Belt and Nikki Conger. City Employees in attendance were as follows: Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Cortny Cosby, Chief Bobby West, Jeff Black, Greg Tabor, Rick Mills, Ronald Howton, Brian Kirby, and Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer.

**Public Comments**

No comments from the public.

**General Government**

Approval for minutes of the regular meeting on January 13, 2025. Councilwoman Nikki Conger noted that Donnie Phillips was listed as Donnie Phelps, requested a correction for Donnie's last name. Correction noted. Motion to approve amended minutes by Councilwoman Wanda Olson, seconded by Councilman Randy Dunn. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning introduced ORDINANCE 25-01. Councilwoman Wanda Olson sponsored AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 31 MAYOR-COUNCIL PLAN: MEETINGS.

Alan Robinson updated the Wastewater Treatment Plant was running well. Alan stated the WWTP started receiving flow in June and added that the contractors are not finished. Alan stated that Greg Tabor and Tony Jackson were doing a great job operating the plant. Alan announced that the Division of Enforcement resolved and closed out the agreed order for case No. DOW 21-3-0162. Alan updated in the next few weeks West Depot Street will have new 6-inch water lines, this is from the remainder of the ARPA grant funding. Customers should notice better water pressure as a result. Alan announced there will be 3 new hydrants on W Depot located across from the jail, Yandell St, and at the end of W Depot. Alan also stated that Marion was one of two cities to receive the KY WWATERS grant, which will be used for new mains placed on W Elm Street, Poplar St and Country Club Dr. The CDBG grant money will be used to replace lines on East Depot, Maxwell, Clark, E Carlisle, and Kevil St. These are all old or corroded lines that will need to be replaced. Alan also stated that the KY WWATERS grant would make it possible for the city to replace all water meters with "smart meters", which he stated will likely be read remotely from city hall due to the overall geography of Marion. Mayor Browning asked about water theft detection. Alan responded that some offer listening technology and feels confident that this will be available within our budget. Mayor Browning questioned if water line replacement also included hydrant replacement. Alan responded that the short answer is yes. Mayor Browning asked if the replacement hydrants would be new, and if so, can we repurpose the old hydrants? Alan responded they will likely be dead hydrants, if not the old hydrants can be put back into inventory. Alan also added that the goal is to have these projects started by the end of the year. Mayor Browning asked if the new development, Cole Springs, had an active water service at this time. Diane Ford-Benningfield responded yes, they currently have service to their main. Citizen Marla Manning questioned why lines would not be replaced through the end of E Depot, extending to her home. Alan responded that currently funds do not support this. Mayor Browning stated she had received several water complaints for E Gum and S Main. Citizen Kent Withrow questioned if a house was condemned, did the city also remove the water meter. Diane Ford-Benningfield responded no, we have not removed meters from the recently condemned homes.

Mayor Browning recommended to the council a KU contract regarding LED outdoor lighting service. Mayor Browning questioned if this would be coming from the general fund. City Treasurer Layten Croft responded yes. Councilwoman Nikki Conger questioned if our contract would mirror Fredonia's contract with KU. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield responded you will see a difference in cost because we have been very diligent in reporting outages as they have occurred, so far, we have had 62 lights replaced. Councilwoman Nikki Conger stated she was for this. Councilman Dwight Sherer asked if the city had the funds to pay upfront. City administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield replied no. Councilman Bobby Belt stated he predicted possible complaints if the lights were too bright, and then questioned if the price varied with wattage. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield responded no, and suggested we have a public forum beforehand to determine where the brighter lights need to be located. Motion to enter contract with KU by Councilman Bobby Belt, seconded by Councilman Taylor Davis. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning recommended to the council the appointment of Charlie Day to the revolving loan fund committee for a 3-year term ending February 2028. Motion made by Councilman Dwight Sherer, seconded by Councilwoman Wanda Olson. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning recommended to the council the appointment of Kayla Maxfield to the tourism board as a representative of the chamber, to finish out the term ending November 2025, for Shana West. Motion made by Councilman Dwight Sherer, seconded by Councilman Randy Dunn. Roll call Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Dwight Sherer and Bobby Belt. Motion made to appoint Kayla Maxfield to the tourism board as a representative of the chamber by Councilman Dwight Sherer, seconded by Councilman Randy Dunn. Councilman Taylor Davis and Councilwoman Nikki Conger abstained. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning recommended to the council the appointment of Stacy Guess to the Code Enforcement Board for the term ending February 2028. Motion made by Councilman Bobby Belt, seconded by Councilman Taylor Davis. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning requested the council to rescind the Hough military loader that the Crittenden County Fiscal Court donated to the City of Marion. Mayor Browning noted that we were very grateful for this donation. Motion made by Councilwoman Nikki Conger, seconded by Councilman Randy Dunn. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Code enforcement officer Rick Mills updated he has delivered 15 violation notices, noted that most of them have been corrected. There are still 11 that will need to be revisited Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. Rick stated that the EPA approved expanding the landfill located in Union County. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield questioned the fee for using the landfill. Rick replied, there is a charge for using the landfill that varies depending on the load. Councilwoman Wanda Olson stated she received more complaints for Bellville and Walker St. Rick stated that he will revisit this location Tuesday. Rick also stated he will be addressing several houses that are not properly marked with an address. Mayor Browning stated that we will need an update on the homes that were recently condemned and possibly start discussion on phase two.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield announced our approval for the Kentucky League of Cities Liability Grant. Through this grant Diane was able to obtain a new mower for the maintenance department. Diane stated that originally the allowance was \$3,000. However, she was able to get the mower fully paid for by adding a mulching kit.

Mayor Browning started the discussion on fire hydrants along W Depot. Alan stated that fire hydrants are part of the construction mentioned earlier in these minutes. Citizen Donnie Arflack stated that during the water crisis Garry Gerard marked every fire hydrant and noted which were no longer working, Garry may still have this list. Mr. Arflack also mentioned that there is a general savings fund that could potentially be used for replacing hydrants. Fire Chief Ronald Howton stated that the newest fire truck is 29 years old and starting to show age. The Chief said that he previously applied for a grant but was not approved. Mayor Browning asked if the Chief received a letter of rejection. The Chief replied that he had received a letter of rejection. Mayor Browning requested the Chief to forward the rejection letter along with all other documents submitted for the grant to the City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield. Mr. Arflack mentioned that the city can submit a claim to insurance companies after responding to a house fire. The insurance company can then reimburse the city up to \$500 per claim that is reported to insurance. Mayor Browning began to discuss the street paving list. Councilwoman Wanda Olson stated that Moore St and CS1107 needed paving badly. Mayor Browning agreed and stated that an ambulance would not be able to use this street safely. Mayor Browning added Bridwell Loop to the list. Councilman Bobby Belt added the intersection at N Walker, as well as the potholes near the Crittenden County Food Bank.

### **Other Business**

Councilman Taylor Davis asked for an update on the possibility of sidewalks on Sturgis Rd. City administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield responded she had a watchlist for this, and added most cities have used tourism funds for sidewalks. Councilman Taylor Davis asked which side of the road would be a better location for the sidewalk. Councilman Taylor Davis also questioned if an alternate route may be possible, because he is very concerned about the safety of pedestrians. Councilwoman Nikki Conger questioned how we could move forward with this. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield responded that it requires a vote from the council, then goes to the tourism board.

Councilman Bobby Belt questioned how the limb pick up was going. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield said there were 3 pages of requests, and the crew has been limited but they are working diligently. Councilman Bobby Belt stated that the weather made

it hard for residents to collect limbs for pick up. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that the executive order was extended through the first weekend of May. Donnie Arflack stated that the burn ban will take effect February 15.

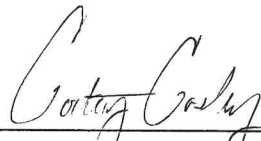
Kent Withrow asked about the Ethics Committee. Mayor Browning responded there will be 3 members on the county board, and 3 on the city board.

Councilwoman Nikki Conger thanked all the city employees for their hard work.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion was made by Councilman Taylor Davis, seconded by Councilman Bobby Belt to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM.

  
D'Anna Browning, Mayor

  
ATTEST: Cortny Cosby, City Clerk