

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, June 19, 2023, at 5:00 P.M.**

The Marion City Council met in Regular Session June 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Tracy Cook, Bobby Belt and Mike Byford. City Employees in attendance were as follows: Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Pam Enoch, Jeff Black, Sergeant George Foster and Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer. A public sign in sheet is attached and made part of these minutes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

No member of the public elected to bring anything before the Mayor or Council.

Motion by Councilman Randy Dunn, seconded by Councilwoman Wanda Olson to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 15, 2023. All present council members voted yes; motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Randy Dunn, seconded by Councilman Bobby Belt to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 24, 2023. All present council members voted yes; motion carried.

Kim Padgett and David Foster with Kentucky Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) were in attendance to inform the council of their findings during our rate analysis. Mrs. Padgett presented the council with an informative slideshow that focused on Asset Management and Preventative Maintenance of our aging water system. Mr. David Foster (RCAP) then presented the Financial Analysis. He advised the city staff was very helpful in retrieving the information he needed to complete this rate review. Mr. Foster explained the different adjustments that he made to the City of Marion's audit to get to his final operating cost. As a conclusion of the rate review it was made apparent that in order for the City of Marion Water company to break even in its operations, the water company needed to increase its revenue by at least \$218,163. This would be an increase of 37.94% to Marion Water's current rate structure. It was mentioned and made to be an important note that the test year of this analysis was from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Councilman Bobby Belt questioned Mr. Foster on his adjustment for employee's salaries and a discussion was had. Mr. Tim Thomas advised the council and public that even with this proposed rate increase, Marion's water rate was still very low compared to other local water departments. Councilman Bobby Belt then added he thought a problem with the negative public perception of their utility bills are that they (the public) do not realize how the bills are itemized. He added that we are all guilty of just looking at the total of the bill. A copy of the presented water rate analysis will be attached to be made part of these minutes.

Councilwoman Tracy Cook sponsored the first reading of Ordinance #23-05 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MARION CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 95.03 FISHING PROHIBITED." Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer gave the summary of said ordinance.

Mr. Tim Thomas came before the Mayor and Marion City Council and presented an update on Lake George, Old City Lake and the working projects included in both. He advised there has now been a pump placed in Lake George that can be operated by the city's team to pump water from Lake George into Old City Lake. He also added that Schnabel is still working on the coffer dam plan. He advised Marion is in a much better place right now than they were last summer. The Mayor agreed with Mr. Thomas and mentioned how much fixing leaks has tightened up our distribution system. They both wanted to add that we are also getting water from Crittenden-Livingston Water District. A member of

the public questioned how much water was in Lake George and Mr. Thomas advised it is holding 20-25% of its normal capacity.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield gave an update on "Clean the Creek". She advised city staff sent out letters to property owners this week. She and the Mayor added that the city still needed to find someone to remove the large lumber throughout the creek.

A motion was made by councilman Mike Byford, seconded by Councilman Randy Dunn to approve the Mayor's appointments to the Board of Adjustments. The appointments for four (4) year terms were as follows, Mike Crabtree, Paja Crider, and Stacy Hughes.

The Marion Tourism Commission's Budget was presented to the Marion City Council. No discussion was had.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Browning wanted the public to be aware that if it were to be dry around the Fourth of July, she would have to ban fireworks. She also mentioned there was positive progress with the Laundry Building.

Councilman Mike Byford advised the half torn down house on West Gum Street was an eye sore. He asked about the filling of the potholes through town. He also added there was a house on Clark Street that had high grass.

Councilman Bobby Belt gave an update on the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. He mentioned that the contractor said the plant was 80% complete but they are still waiting on a very important part. Mr. Belt bragged about Garry and his maintenance team.

Councilwoman Tracy Cook mentioned that the Boy Scouts or a local youth group may be able to help with the "Clean the Creek" project.

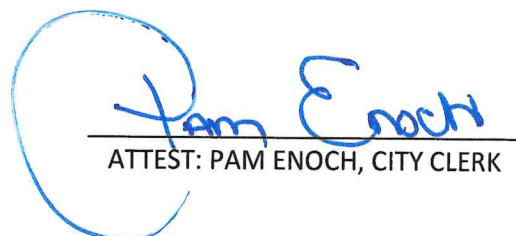
Councilwoman Wanda Olson requested that a stop sign be placed at Rochester and Cherry Street making that a three-way stop.

Councilman Randy Dunn advised the potholes on Chapel Hill Road had been filled. He added that he was asked when the paving of Chapel Hill at Industrial Drive would be completed. City Administrator Ford-Benningfield advised she has been working on a road list. The Mayor added there was a list that was approved two years ago that needed to be a main priority.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.


D'ANNA BROWNING, MAYOR


ATTEST: PAM ENOCH, CITY CLERK