

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

The City Council of the City of Marion, Arkansas met in regular session on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Marion City Hall.

Present:	Frank A. Fogleman Kelly O'Neal Jim Spence Bryan Jackson Sherry Holliman James C. Hale, III David W. Rikard	Mayor Councilman (1-1) Councilman (2-2) Councilman (3-1) Councilwoman (3-2) City Attorney City Treasurer
Absent:	David Bigger Cliff Wood Patty James	Councilman (1-2) Councilman (2-1) City Clerk
Others Present:	Gary Kelley Woody Wheelless Jerry Kelley Jim Shempert Gordon Floyd Andy Rawls Ed Cain	Police Chief Fire Chief Building Inspector Water Superintendent Streets and Sanitation Parks Superintendent City Planning Consultant

I

Councilman O'Neal suggested in the form of a motion, that the minutes of the May 28, 2019 be revised to reflect he informed the council a new fire station building could be built for \$55,000 more than the addition option. Councilwoman Holliman seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

II

Citizen's Concerns: Ms. Pamela Smith, from Pleasant Plains Subdivision addressed the Council concerning several suggestions for lighting and safety on Angels Way. She indicated the lighting in the area where Angels Way meets College Blvd. is poor and leads to accidents. She requested the city consider more lights at the intersection, reflector poles to help navigate the sharp turn at night and reflectors to identify the lanes. Ms. Smith also asked if the water tower could be lighted. Gordon Floyd indicated that Angels Way had recently been widened at the intersection and the plan calls for additional reflector poles and lane reflectors.

Ms. Phyllis Donley, Senior Health Information Coordinator with the Arkansas Insurance Department addressed the council to provide information about the services her office provides. Ms. Donley indicated that Councilwoman Holliman invited her to address the Council. She informed the attendees that her office provides free, unbiased counseling for those applying for Medicare. Ms. Donley went over a few of the free services her department provides and displayed samples of the free information citizens can access.

Ms. Casandra Meyer of Lakeshore addressed the Council concerning problems with environmental issues at Lakeshore. She identified many violations that have been reported at Lakeshore and indicated the

responsible individual lived in Marion. Ms. Meyer requested a permit to “Freely Assemble” in front of this individual’s home in Marion. The Mayor indicated that Marion does not currently have a process to grant such a permit. He pointed out that it is illegal to assemble on the individual’s property and it is illegal to block the street. The Mayor agreed to meet with Ms. Meyer and gather more information about her request.

III

Planning Commission: Ed Cain reported that the Planning Commission met on June 4, 2019, but none of those scheduled on the agenda were in attendance. Cain indicated there is an agenda for the next scheduled meeting on July 2, 2019.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Spence reported that the committee met and discussed the bids to repair the problem on Elm St. Spence indicated the engineer’s estimate of the project was \$54,000, but the bids that were received ranged from \$121,829 to \$149,150. The Committee recommended, in the form of a motion, that all the bids be declined and Jim Shempert be authorized to make the repairs using city employees. Councilman O’Neal seconded the motion and all councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion.

Parks and Recreation: Andy Rawls had no report.

Streets and Drainage: Councilwoman Holliman indicated no report. Holliman announced the next meeting will be July 22, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Annex.

Sanitation: Councilman Jackson had no report.

Building Inspector: Jerry Kelley reported 7 new house permits, no commercial permits and 38 other permits were issued since the last council meeting. That brings the year to date totals to 20 new house permits, 2 commercial permits and 141 other permits. Kelley also reported that the homeowner at 179 George had secured financing and should start making repairs to his property shortly.

Police & Fire Committee: Councilman O’Neal indicated their items would be addressed in old business.

IV

Old Business: Jerry Kelley updated the council on the progress of the police and fire station additions. Kelley indicated that the police addition was going well, the project is dried in and he expects completion in about eight weeks. The fire station work has begun with about 90% of the demolition done. Dirt work has started and the building kit should be delivered in about six to seven weeks.

Councilman Jackson asked the Mayor for an update on the overpass. Mayor Fogleman indicated that the 90% design has been submitted to the Arkansas Highway Department and we are awaiting their response.

V

New Business: The first order of new business was discussion of proposed lighting changes to several city buildings. The Mayor indicated the city was approached by Energy Savers of Mississippi, LLC (ESM) who is partnering with Entergy to help cities become more energy efficient. ESM has surveyed several of the city’s buildings and provided proposals to the Mayor to replace the existing light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs. The work would be performed under a program sponsored by Entergy where the city pays for the upgrade and then Entergy would refund the city about 75% of the cost. The other costs would be recouped by reduced energy costs. The proposals indicate the city should recoup their investment in two to eight months depending on the building. Councilman Spence moved the Mayor be

authorized to sign the agreements. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion and all councilmembers present voted in favor of the motion.

VI

Resolutions and Ordinances: Mayor Fogleman brought a draft ordinance to the floor to amend the City of Marion Ordinance No. 124 to revise the definition and requirements for a home occupation. The Mayor indicated this ordinance has been approved twice and if approved tonight would be final.

Councilman Spence moved the proposed ordinance be read by title only. Councilwoman Holliman seconded. All Council Members present voted in favor.

City Attorney Hale read the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF MARION ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO 124) TO REVISE THE DEFINITION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR A HOME OCCUPATION

Councilman Jackson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Spence, that the Ordinance be adopted on the 3rd reading. On roll call the following votes were recorded: Spence-aye, Jackson-aye, Holliman-aye, O'Neal-aye. The Ordinance passed and was numbered 585.

VII

Financial Report: Treasurer Rikard reported that the May financial statements have previously been distributed to the Council. Rikard pointed out that sales tax revenue collections for May for the city portion were worse than budget by 4.2% and the county portion was worse than budget by 7.9%. The June numbers have just been released and the city portion was better than budget by 4.6% and the county portion was better than budget by 5.1%. That results in the year to date collections through June better than budget by 5.5% for the city portion and better by 0.1% for the county portion. Rikard further pointed out that general fund revenue collections through May are worse than budget by approximately \$67,000 while general fund expenditures are better than budget by approximately \$112,000. Rikard then opened the floor for questions.

VIII

Departmental Reports:

Andy Rawls had nothing further to report.

Woody Wheelless updated the council on the A-Win radio system. The main components have been installed and are currently being tested. He expects the system to be up and running in one to two weeks.

Gary Kelley had nothing further to report.

Jim Shempert had nothing further to report.

Ed Cain had nothing further to report.

Gordon Floyd had nothing further to report.

Jerry Kelley had nothing further to report.

There being no further business to come before the council and upon proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk