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City Council Meeting
February 20th, 2024
Monday, 4:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Marion, Kansas was held Monday, February 20th, 2024 at 203 N. 3rd, Marion, Kansas in the lower level at 4:30 p.m. with Mayor, Michael Powers presiding as Mayor and Council Members, Zach Collett, Kevin Burkholder, Amy Smith and Tim Baxa. Also in attendance, Janet Robinson, City Clerk, Zach Hudlin, Margo Yates, Community Enrichment Director, Ruth Herbel, Ron Herbel, Steven Wilson, Donald Wilson, Gene Winkler, and Marion County Record reporters, Phyllis Zorn and Eric Meyer.

Call to Order: Mayor Powers called the meeting to order following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum: Nothing further to report.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: T. Baxa made a motion to approve the consent agenda, pending questions that K. Burkholder had regarding purchases made to amazon for clothing, and the company Utility Services. The amazon clothing purchased, was for the electrical department, and the Utility Services bill was for the annual inspection of the water tower Robinson stated; K. Burkholder 2nd; motion carried 5-0.

Kansas Transportation Concept Paper: Mayor Powers told council members that Mike Mills, who is an attorney with the Kansas Transportation Alternatives, contacted him and asked if the City of Marion would support to do the engineering research for a trail that would involve Marion in some way, no specifics yet on how the city would be involved, and was asking to list the City of Marion as a supporter for the funding to proceed with the concept study for a trail grant they are applying for. Powers stated that the city would not be obligated for any funding, they would just like to list Marion as a supporter. After discussion, K. Burkholder made a motion to approve supporting the Sunflower Santa Fe Trail Committee applying for the KDOT Transportation Alternative Grant to do the engineering research for a trail, with no obligation going forward financially; Baxa 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 1508 – Meeting Dates and Time Change: Z. Collett made a motion to approve Ordinance 1508 changing the meeting date to the first and third Monday's of every month, and changing with the meeting start time to 5:00 p.m., starting March 4th, 2024; A. Smith 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Hearing Notice – Ordinance 1509 Revisions to Floodplain Regulations: T. Baxa made a motion to approve setting the hearing date for the floodplain regulation changes for April 1st, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.; K. Burkholder 2nd; motion carried 5-0.

2025 Budget Engagement Letter with Loyd Group: Z. Collett made a motion to approve the 2025 budget engagement with Loyd Group at a cost of \$2,500.00; T. Baxa 2nd; motion carried 5-0.

Department and Staff Reports: S. Hart told council members that the new bucket truck was delivered today, which was not scheduled to be delivered until November of 2024. Hart stated that funding for the purchase of the truck would be brought to an upcoming council meeting.

M. Yates told council members that she was working on updating the 2025 Travel Guide, and that new vendors have been signing up for Art in the Park. Mayor Powers asked that Yates furnish a list of her job duties, so plans could be made before she retires.

Z. Hudlin reported that Dustin Woodford joined the department and would be starting the academy on February 25th, 2024.

Councilor Reports: T. Baxa reported he had toured the water plant with Jason Wheeler, which was very informative, and in the upcoming future, upgrades were going to be needed, and our equipment was getting old and replacement parts were becoming hard to find.

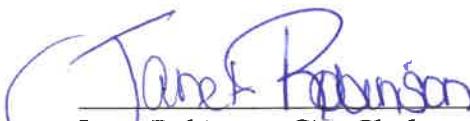
K. Burkholder asked for an update regarding the housing project with Lange Real Estate. Mayor Powers stated that the property had been deeded over to Lange Real Estate, and a meeting would be set up in the near future with Lange Real Estate. Burkholder asked about the runway at the airport. Mayor Powers reported that the project was not forgotten, and Darin Neufeld was working on a plan.


Z. Collett asked Donald Wilson if he had received a punch list from James Masters on what needed to be done to get his property in compliance. D. Wilson stated he had, however the letter he received was confusing, but he was doing his best to meet the March deadline. Z. Collett suggested that two public forum been on the agenda, one at the beginning, and one at the end of the meeting.

A Smith also toured the water plant and complimented the water department staff on the good job they do. Smith stated that she had a conversation with Brad Yazel about the cemetery holding water issue. Yazel suggested that dirt be placed on the graves that have settled, which was a process.

Mayor Powers suggested that department heads attend at least one Council Meeting per month so if concerns were brought up, questions could be answered. Mayors suggested that council members have study session meetings, and also suggested that a tour of the entire City Building be scheduled either 30 minutes before a meeting or after, to address maintenance issues that need to be addressed. Mayor Powers asked Mark McAnarney how he was settling in to his position. M. McAnarney stated he was getting out meeting people, and trying to learn as much as he can about Marion.

Motion to Adjourn Council Meeting: A. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting; T. Baxa 2nd; motion carried 5-0.


Janet Robinson, City Clerk


Michael Powers, Mayor