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City Council Meeting  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Monday, 4:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Marion, Kansas was held Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 203 N. 3rd, Marion, Kansas in the lower level at 4:30 p.m. with David Mayfield presiding as Mayor and Council Members Zach Collett, Kevin Burkholder, Ruth Herbel and Jerry Kline. Also in attendance, Brogan Jones, Janet Robinson, City Clerk, Zach Hudlin, Margo Yates, Community Enrichment Director, Michael Powers, Amy Smith, Tim Smith, Ruth Lange, Steven Hart, Landon Pederson, Gene Winkler, Kris Burkholder, Calli Burkholder, Donald Wilson, Teresa Eads, Robert Crawford, Margaret Wilson, Jeremiah Lange, Marion County Record reporters, Phyllis Zorn and Eric Meyer.

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

Approval of the Agenda: Herbel made a motion to approve the agenda; Kline 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried 5-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Herbel made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Kline 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried 5-0

- Approval of the Minutes of December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council meeting
- Approval of warrants in the amount of \$30,527.49
- Approval of payroll in the amount of \$37,200.91

Ruth Herbel told council members that she was aware that the city had hired Jason Wheeler as the water operator at a rate of \$36.00 per hour, and expressed her concerns on who hired him. After discussion, Mayfield explained that Wheeler was hired because it was a requirement from KDHE that the City have a certified water operator.

Swearing in of Mayor Michael Powers: J. Robinson gave the Oath of Office to Mayor Michael Powers.

Swearing in of Councilor Kevin Burkholder: J. Robinson gave the Oath of Office to Councilor Kevin Burkholder.

Swearing in of Councilor Amy Smith: J. Robinson gave the Oath of Office to Councilor Amy Smith.

Swearing in of Councilor Timothy Baxa: J. Robinson gave the Oath of Office to Councilor Timothy Baxa.

Mayor Powers welcomed in the new council members and stated he was honored to be serving the City of Marion as Mayor. Powers told each council member that when its time for their report, he would like them to start out by stating something great they like about Marion.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance Renewal: Kelly Leister, BCBS representative went over the employees health insurance benefits and told council members that the premium for the same grandfathered insurance plan was going down a small amount this year. After discussion, Collett made a motion to approve the health insurance renewal; Baxa 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried 5-0.

MIH Funds - Lange Real Estate presentation - Kristin Wewe: Wewe told council members that B. Jones had contacted Lange Real Estate about the 4 MIH lots that were available for development on Coble Street, in which there was grant money of \$40,000.00 available for each owner who decided to build houses on these parcels. Wewe stated that Lange Real Estate was interested in partnering with the City to get the homes built on the lots and selling them. After much discussion, Wewe will return to the next council meeting with a Developers' Agreement for council members to consider.

Airport Insurance Liability Renewal - Robinson: J. Robinson told council members that the 3 year Airport Insurance Liability policy was up for renewal with a small increase in premium of less than \$500.00. Baxa made a motion to approve the renewal; Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried 5-0.

202 Miller Street - James Masters: Masters showed council members photos of the property at 202 Miller Street and stated that progress had been made on getting the property up to code. After discussion, Collett made a motion for Masters to give Mr. Wilson a punch list of what was left to get the property up to code, and for Mr. Wilson to return to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in March to give a status update on the progression before moving forward with demolition. Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried 5-0.

Department Reports: Yates reported that she was excited about moving forward with the city working with Lange Real Estate on the MIH properties.

Officer Hudlin reported that Peyton Heidebrecht had resigned from his position as a police officer, and Officer Aaron and K-9 unit were recently hired, and reported that Officer Bryant would be starting the Policy Academy in 3 weeks.

J. Robinson nothing further to report.

Councilor Reports: Baxa commended the City employees, and thanked the refuse department for making an extra effort in picking up trash. Baxa stated that he had researched the city audit, and reported that the City does make interest on the checking account each month.

Burkholder commented that city employees to a great job on the upkeep of Central Park, and liked how the decorated tree looked during the Christmas season. Burkholder stated that he was still researching costs for the transformation of the tennis court to a pickleball court.

Collett told council members that the friendliness of Marion residents, whether or not you know them, is a reason he lives in the City, and thanked the city employees for the dedication to getting water leaks fixed quickly. Collett told council members that construction on the hike and bike trail would be starting before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Smith stated that the schools are the best in Marion, and the teachers and staff go above and beyond to help each and every student in the district.

Mayor Powers stated he was impressed with the City staff, and the good attitudes each of them have, are much appreciated. Powers stated he as well had called the banks to find out about interest income on the city checking account. Powers stated that a potential candidate for the position of Interim City Administrator was considering the position. Powers stated he expected an interview with the candidate to be held at the January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 Council meeting in open session, going into executive session to discuss the financials of the position. Powers told council members that meeting dates and times will be discussed at the next meeting as well, and also encouraged council members to get with city staff to tour the water plant, city shop, city hall, etc.


Public Forum: Teresa Eads told council members that she lived across the street from the City property and she was tired of all the dust she has been dealing with, and asked council members if there was a solution to cut down on the amount of dust that blows into her house. Burkholder suggested that millings be put down on the road to cut the dust down. Mr. Crawford, Ms. Eads father, suggested the water be inspected in his area.

Ruth Herbel stated that council members be aware that Jason Wheeler was hired to be the certified water plant operator at \$36.00, and suggested that they renegotiate the offer when a new City Administrator is hired. Herbel told council members that \$36.00 per hour is more than any city employee currently makes.

Motion to adjourn Council Meeting: Baxa made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:19.



Michael Powers, Mayor



Janet Robinson, City Clerk