

TOWN OF MARION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
November 12th 2024

The Town of Marion's Board of Aldermen met on Tuesday, November 12th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Marion Fire Station for a public hearing and their regular business meeting. Members present included: Mayor Danny A. Smith, Aldermen Mark Andrews, Eugene "Bubba" Hoggatt, Channing Washington, and Alderwomen Rhonda Davis and Tina Harris. Guests included Becky and Hannah Conley, Addison and Sydney Akers, Kayla Booker and Cameron Huval, Chief of Police Montral Ferguson, Public Works Director Jimmy Caldwell, Assistant Public Works Director Tyler Murray, and Assistant Clerk Cheryl Geoghagan. Town Clerk Rebecca Worthington was absent.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Alderman Andrews led the pledge of allegiance and Alderman Hoggatt gave the invocation.

Mayor Smith welcomed guests and as required by state law, opened the floor to public comments concerning all agenda items. Guest Becky & Hannah Conley address their concerns about the damage done to their clothing. Mayor Danny informed them that testing, communication with the Town Engineer and construction crew, along with other forms of verification are already in place to solve this issue. Addison Akers addressed the council and offered their support for town events.

On motion by Alderman Hoggatt, seconded by Alderman Andrews to amend the agenda. Motion carried. Motion amended to include a roll call vote for the hiring of Mike Estes as the Code Enforcement Officer at a rate of \$38.00 per hour. Roll call vote was a unanimous yes for all council members. This pay rate includes Mr. Estes furnishing his own vehicle and gas expense.

On motion by Alderwoman Davis, seconded by Alderman Andrews to approve the October 8th, 2024, regular business meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The budget to actual financial reports (comparisons) will be reviewed at the December Meeting, along with voting on the amended and proposed 2024/2025 budget.

Mayor Smith gave an update on the Delta Regional Authority Grant. Paperwork has been signed and submitted to ensure the award is accepted properly.



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Mayor Smith informed the council that a settlement has been offered by the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System (MPERS). The Town lawyer is reviewing and there will be updates on the amount and terms at the next meeting.

On motion by Alderman Hoggatt, seconded by Alderwoman Harris, the Conexon Franchise Fee is set at 5%. Motion carried.

On motion by Alderman Washington, seconded by Alderman Andrews, the police department will hire Nathan Caughlin, William Nance, and Derek Daniel as part-time officers, starting at minimum wage until training is complete. Motion carried.

On motion by Alderwoman Davis, seconded by Alderman Andrews, American Municipal Services (AMS) will be used to collect past due utility and ticket debts for the Town. Motion carried.

The water meter installation is nearly complete, and the auto-read features are being coordinated between the Town and the construction team.

The new water meters are 90% installed and will prove beneficial for the town and the utility department.

Alderwoman Davis suggested giving the Mayor a raise and it was tabled until the December meeting.

Public Works Director Jimmy Caldwell informed the council that the sewer pond is being aerated per guidelines.

On motion by Alderwoman Davis, seconded by Alderman Hoggatt to pay bills. Motion carried.

The Veterans Day Celebration was at the First Baptist Family Life Center on November 11th at 10 am with Lum Farr as the guest speaker, and it turned out to be a great success.

The Christmas Parade is on December 14th at 6 pm. The line-up will begin at 5:30 pm. A reception will be held at the Marion Fire Station after the parade.

There being no further business to come before the council Mayor Smith adjourned this meeting on the 12th day of November 2024. Upon motion by Davis, seconded by Andrews and unanimously approved.

Danny A. Smith, Mayor,

Rebecca Worthington, Town Clerk



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