



Town of Marion

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TOWN OF MARION REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING October 8th, 2024

The Town of Marion's Board of Aldermen met on Tuesday, October 8th, 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, and Alderwomen Rhonda Davis and Tina Harris. Guests included Cristal Bearden, Assistant Chief of Police Bruce McCrell, Public Works Director Jimmy Caldwell, Assistant Public Works Director Tyler Murray, and Assistant Clerk Cheryl Geoghagan. Alderman Channing Washington, Eugene "Bubba" Hoggatt, and Town Clerk Rebecca Worthington were absent.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Alderwoman Harris led the pledge of allegiance and Asst. Clerk Cheryl Geoghagan gave the invocation.

Mayor Smith welcomed guests and as required by state law, opened the floor to public comments concerning all agenda items. Guest Cristal Bearden and Alderwoman Harris voiced their concerns about residents riding four-wheelers after 11 pm in town. Asst. Chief of Police Bruce McCrell will relay the complaint and address it with the Chief of Police when he returns.

On motion by Alderman Andrews, seconded by Alderwoman Davis to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

On motion by Alderman Andrews, seconded by Alderwoman Davis to approve the September 10th, 2024, regular business meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The budget to actual financial reports (comparisons) will be reviewed at the November meeting due to the Town Clerk being out sick.

Mayor Smith gave an update on LAMATS coordinating the sale of surplus town vehicles. Email correspondence has begun and will continue. More updates will be given soon.



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Mayor Smith informed the council that The Conley residents were referred to Traveler's Insurance for their utility complaint.

Mayor Smith reported on the progress of the blight and excessive junk committee. Mike Estes has agreed to be the Town Constable at a rate of \$38.00 an hour. Alderman Mark Andrews agreed to join the committee, and the focus will begin on Kennedy St.

On motion by Alderwoman Davis, seconded by Alderwoman Harris, to vote The Banner as the official Town journal. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith informed the council that Claudia Wade is working with the Town to search for and apply for available grants. The Town is shooting for the moon.

A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Sadie Tiger Bend and the Marion Fire Dept has been signed and sent to through the proper channels. The combined efforts can only improve the fire rating for both districts.

Mayor Smith gave an update on the Upper Ouachita Wildlife Refuge Welcome Center. The Union Parish Police Jury has been contacted, as well as Senator Kennedy for their support and counsel.

The water rate adjustment and all policies regarding utilities were mailed out to all residents last month.

Mayor Smith proclaimed September 17th-23rd as DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution week.

New "Welcome" Signs have arrived and will be put up soon.

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

Mayor Smith suggested leasing a backhoe through LAMATS to solve the need in the Public Works Department

Chief of Police, Montal Ferguson is at a training conference this week and is excited to bring back all he has learned.

On motion by Alderman Andrews, seconded by Alderwoman Harris to pay bills. Motion carried.

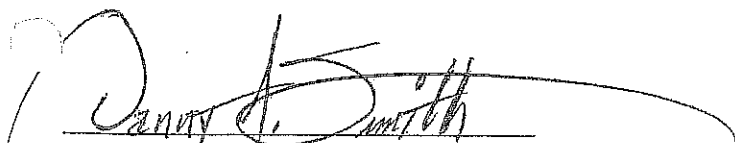
A Trunk or Treat event will be held on October 31st 6-8 pm at Down Home Café.

The Veterans Day Celebration will be held at the First Baptist Family Life Center on November 11th at 10 am with Lum Farr as the guest speaker.

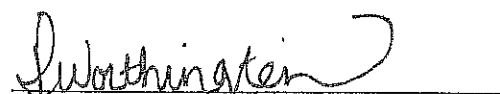
There being no further business to come before the council Mayor Smith adjourned this meeting on the 8th day of September 2024. Upon motion by Andrews, seconded by Davis and unanimously approved.



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Danny A. Smith, Mayor



Rebecca Worthington, Town Clerk



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