



Town of Marion
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TOWN OF MARION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
September 10th, 2024

The Town of Marion's Board of Aldermen met Tuesday, September 10th, 2024, at 5:00 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, and Channing Washington. Guests included Gerri Allen, Chief Montral Ferguson, Assistant Chief of Police Bruce McCrell, Town Clerk Rebecca Worthington, and Assistant Clerk Cheryl Geoghagan. Alderwomen Rhonda Davis and Tina Harris were absent.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Alderman Washington led the pledge of allegiance and Asst. Chief of Police Bruce McCrell gave the invocation.

Mayor Smith welcomed guests and as is required by state law, the Mayor opened the floor to public comments concerning all agenda items, there were no comments.

During the public meeting, on motion by Alderman Hoggatt, seconded by Alderman Washington Ordinance 2024-01 was adopted.



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ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01

of the

TOWN OF MARION, LOUISIANA

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR WATER RATES

WHEREAS, the Town of Marion, Louisiana, has entered into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Concord Water System, Inc., which will result in the ownership and administration of said system by the Town of Marion. Marion has received funding to construct potable water improvements to improve the proposed consolidated system. The Louisiana Rural Water Association has conducted studies and provided a schedule of water rates necessary to support the Town of Marion/Concord Water System consolidation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Marion, that, to-wit:

Water rates are hereby set as follows, to wit:

Marion Residential Customers: \$35.00 for the first 2,000 gallons

\$5.60 per 1,000 gallons thereafter



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Marion Commercial Customers: \$45.00 for the first 5,000 gallons

\$5.85 per 1,000 gallons thereafter

Marion Manor: \$960.00 for the first 25,000 gallons

\$5.85 per 1,000 gallons thereafter

Concord Water System Customers: \$45.00 for the first 2,000 gallons

\$5.60 per 1,000 gallons thereafter

Water rates shall be effective beginning October 1, 2024.

Water rates shall automatically increase annually by an amount equal to the Consumer Price Index for the month of September each year and shall be effective October 1 annually.

In the event of the invalidity of any part of any provision hereof, the remaining provisions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith or inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced at the regular meeting of the Board of Alderman of the Town of Marion, Louisiana, on the 13th day of August, 2024, and due and proper notice was given by publication in accordance with statutory provision.



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Due and proper publication having been given in accordance with the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:406, as last amended, the foregoing ordinance was taken up in regular order by the Board of Alderman of the Town of Marion, Louisiana, in its regular meeting held on September 10, 2024. Upon motion and after discussion, the foregoing ordinance was voted upon and approved with the following roll-call vote:

YEAS: Washington, Hoggatt, Andrews

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Davis, Harris

ABSTAIN: None

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the foregoing ordinance to have been duly approved and adopted, and the same was ordered published in accordance with law.

Mayor Danny A. Smith

Rebecca Worthington, Clerk

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

On motion by Alderman Hoggatt, seconded by Alderman Washington to approve the August 13th, 2024 regular business meeting minutes. Motion carried.

On motion by Alderman Washington, seconded by Alderman Hoggatt, to approve the budget to actual financial comparisons. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith gave an update on the Vehicle Solar Charging Station Grant. It has been submitted and includes several surrounding towns and cities, creating a regional opportunity for our area.

Mayor Smith and Clerk Worthington gave an update about the Ayuda grant, as it's still a work in progress, but hope to see results within the year.

Mayor Smith gave a report on the blight and excessive junk committee progress. The ordinance is being reviewed by a local constable and will be voted on in the near future.

Mayor Smith informed all about the LITACorp Grant and what opportunities will become available to the Town upon completion and approval.

Mayor Smith suggested the Town contract the services of LAMAT to auction off surplus Town vehicles. The council agreed using this resource could reach a bigger audience.

Mayor Smith brought hiring Starcorius Dyes as a part-time employee in the Public Works Department before the council and determined that voting would be tabled until a later date.

Mayor Smith discussed drafting an ordinance to grant him the authority to amend traffic tickets as he is serving as magistrate and prosecutor, to ensure all rules and regulations are being adhered to.

Mayor Smith presented the council with a copy of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Agreement regarding beneficial investments for the town. This will be voted on in the next meeting.

The council members tabled voting on the official Town journal until the next meeting.

On motion by Alderman Hoggatt, seconded by Alderman Andrews, to approve a new town utility tampering policy. Motion carried.



Town of Marion
Theft of Service and Tampering Policy Statement

Tampering with utility equipment or stealing service will be grounds for discontinuance of utility services. Theft of service shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- a) Opening valves at the curb or meter that have been turned off by utility personnel
- b) Breaking, picking or damaging cut off locks
- c) By-passing meters in any way
- d) Taking unmetered water from hydrants by anyone other than an authorized official of a recognized fire department, fire insurance company or utility for any purpose other than firefighting, testing or flushing of hydrants
- e) Removing, disabling, or adjusting meter registers
- f) Connecting to or intentionally damaging water lines, valves or other appurtenances for the purpose of stealing or damaging utility equipment
- g) Moving the meter or extending service without permission of the Town of Marion Water System
- h) Any other intentional act of defacement, destruction or vandalism to utility property or act that effects utility property
- i) Any intentional blockage or obstruction of utility equipment

The theft/tampering fees will be determined by the appropriate authority on a case-by-case basis.



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The council was informed that the Town's health insurance was renewed for full-time employees at no cost to them.

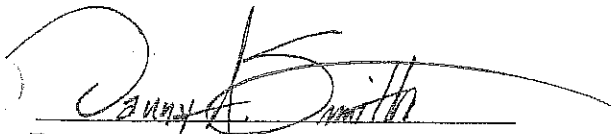
Mayor Smith encouraged the town to continue reporting street light outages as well as damaged or missing street signs. Thereby ensuring the safety of the Marion residents.

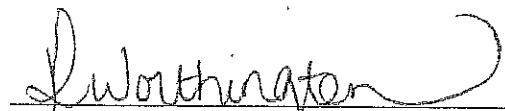
On motion by Alderman Andrews, seconded by Alderman Hoggatt to pay bills. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith informed the council that he attended the Annual Court Training at LSU Alexandria on 9/9/24 and visited the Town of Woodworth on 9/10/24 to train with Mayor David Butler for further Magistrate Court training.

The time has come for the Autumn Fest, Safe Trick or Treat events, and soon the Christmas Timber Fest & Parade will be here. The Christmas Timber Fest will remain on the first Saturday of December, 12/7/24. Other dates will be announced soon.

There being no further business to come before the council Mayor Smith adjourned this meeting on the 13th day of August 2024. Upon motion by Andrews, seconded by Hoggatt and unanimously approved.



Danny A. Smith, Mayor

Rebecca Worthington, Town Clerk