

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
June 18, 2018**

The Marion City Council met in regular session June 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jared Byford presiding. Council members present were Phyllis, Darrin Tabor, Donnie Arflack, Dwight Sherer, D'Anna Sallin, and Mike Byford. City employees in attendance were as follows: Adam Ledford, Melinda Gipson, Pam Enoch, Terri Hart, Brian Thomas, Ray O'Neal, and the city attorney. A public sign-in sheet is attached and made part of these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amanda Davenport, Regional Director of CCEDC, was present at meeting to introduce herself to the mayor and council.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Motion by Donnie Arflack, second by Dwight Sherer to approve the minutes of the special called meeting June 4, 2018 minutes as submitted to council. All voted yes.

A bad debt list was given to council for approval to write-off. This is done as an accounting measure. The City will strive to collect debts if anyone wants to come back on service. Council member D'Anna Sallin asked what steps were being taken to collect from people with bad debts. It was suggested that the city attorney send a letter to the ones who owe a bad debt. Motion by Darrin Tabor, second by Dwight Sherer to write-off bad debts as listed. A copy of the bad debt list is attached and made part of these minutes. All voted yes.

The Code Enforcement Officer, Terri Hart, addressed the council with a concern about a rental home owned by Jerry Belt. She stated the neighbor next door to the rental wanting to see what steps could be taken in order to get this landlord to clean the property up. The city attorney said, before the City can do anything to force a cleanup, a state inspector would need to determine the safety of the structure for occupancy. The city attorney also stated homes used as rental places can be subject to such inspections based upon substantiated complaints.

The Code Enforcement Officer, Terri Hart, presented an issue from a resident on North Maple Street, Wayne Pritchard, he was requesting permission from the City to remove a sidewalk in front of his house and not replace it. Terri stated she agreed with Mr. Pritchard's thoughts that it was more dangerous having a sidewalk at the location. There were questions and concerns on whether more people would request this and the council decided if anyone else asked to remove sidewalk, they would have to handle each issue separately based on the circumstances. Motion by D'Anna Sallin, second by Dwight Sherer to approve Wayne Pritchard permanently removing sidewalk in front of his property. The vote was as follows: Phyllis Sykes abstained, Darrin Tabor no, Donnie Arflack yes, Dwight Sherer yes, D'Anna Sallin yes, and Mike Byford no. Motion carried.

Mayor Jared Byford congratulated Eddie Myers on his retirement as a municipal water plant operator for the City of Marion. Myers started as a full-time operator at the water plant in September 1982, and went to part-time in February 2005. The city administrator, Adam Ledford recognized Eddie Myers for his 36 years of dedication to the City of Marion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council member Phyllis Sykes requesting sending a letter to Tom Hawthorne, concerning weeds in front of his business on Main Street. Brian Thomas, Utility Director, said his crew spent time last week spraying along some main sidewalks. Michelle Edwards, Marion Tourism Director, said she would also pitch in, when she has the golf cart out, to help alleviate the unsightly problem.

Council member Phyllis Sykes asked for an update on the fire hydrants that weren't working. Brian Thomas, Utility Director, stated he and his staff should be able to determine and map late next month which city fire hydrants that don't work.

Council member Darrin Tabor inquired about finding new sources of revenue for the City, and not through higher taxes or fees on property owners. The council discussed annexation, legalizing alcohol sales and municipal garbage collection as possible solutions.

Council member Donnie Arflack suggested the county pay more in to the cost of operating the dispatch center for emergency services, which he stated was a big expense to city taxpayers for a service provided for the entire county. The city administrator stated negotiations were in the works and something should be before the council by fall.

Council member Dwight Sherer asked about filling Eddie Myers position at the Water Treatment Plant.

Council member D'Anna Sallin asked what could be done to keep the mosquito population down. Brian Thomas said the city no longer has anyone certified to spray chemicals to eradicate the insect. The city administrator stated he would contact the state officials again this year to request the state's pesticide services in problem areas.

Council member D'Anna Sallin said the sign was down in front of Newcom gym.

Council member D'Anna Sallin stated she would like for the city to find money to put back into the recently passed budget to continue fall leaf collection. The Mayor stated he had been discussing an idea with Crittenden County Jailer Robbie Kirk to offer a solution for leaf collection. He stated it was too early to know yet, if idea will work.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council, meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

JARED BYFORD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

PAM ENOCH, CITY CLERK