

MARIONVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Marionville Conference Room, 101 S Central

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mayor Blankenship called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. On roll call the following Aldermen were present: Joanne Lawrence, Murlin Bettinger, Kevin Bliss, Gina Herndon and Melissa Freeman. Donna White was absent.

Following roll call, Mayor Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and Murlin Bettinger opened the meeting with prayer.

Approve Order of Agenda: Alderman Bliss made the motion to approve the order of the agenda as presented. Alderman Bettinger seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:
AYES: 5- Bettinger, Freeman, Herndon, Bliss, Lawrence

Approve minutes February 9, 2023 regular session and special meeting March 1, 2023: Alderman Herndon made the motion to approve the minutes of February 9 and March 1 as presented. Alderman Freeman seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:
AYES: 5- Bliss, Lawrence, Herndon, Freeman, Bettinger

Approve payment of Bills, Adjustments, Bank Recs and Cash Reports: Alderman Freeman made the motion to approve payment of Bills, Adjustments, Bank Recs and Cash Reports as presented. Alderman Lawrence seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:
AYES: 5- Bliss, Herndon, Bettinger, Freeman, Lawrence

Citizens Comments/Official Guests & Visitors
(none)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief Coatney: Marionville still has one position open for a full time patrol officer. Recruiting will be a primary focus in the next few weeks. During February they had one hundred sixty (160) calls for service in Marionville and they made one hundred nineteen (119) traffic stops. Chief Coatney was asked if we have full time coverage in Marionville. His response was one out of three officers on duty is assigned to Marionville. When they are short staffed, that makes it difficult to assign someone to Marionville; however, Marionville does have police coverage 24/7. They did put the desks together over at the police building. We are still waiting on the IT person to finish up a few things and then network the computers together.

Sewer: During February, sixty-seven thousand (67,000) gallons of sludge was hauled. We are hoping to get the irrigation system functional. We are in compliance with the DNR.

OLD BUSINESS

BILL NO. 2023-04 ORDINANCE NO. 04-2023 "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND IMPLIMENTING CHARGES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMERGENCY AND NON EMERGENCY SERVICES BY THE MARIONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT": Bill No. 2023-04 was read twice by title only. This ordinance is to charge fees to non-residents who use our emergency services and equipment. Alderman Lawrence made the motion to approve Bill No. 2023-04 as presented. Alderman Bettinger Seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:
AYES: 5- Herndon, Freeman, Lawrence, Bliss, Bettinger

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS: Paula Schapeler addressed the board. She stated she had an electrical problem and hired an electrician to fix it. The electrician pulled a permit and called the inspector to come and do the inspection. The inspector did not remove his shoes and made a mess on the floors, plus she did not give the inspector permission to go into her house. She provided receipts showing she purchased the items to correct the issues that still needed to be corrected/updated after the first inspection and noted the work has been done. She asked why she had to update these other areas. Mayor Blankenship explained sometimes an update can cause other things to have to be replaced/updated to bring it up to code for life safety purposes and replacing an electrical panel is one of those times. An inspection is part of the permit; however, we can improve on our communication to home owners regarding this. Since it appears the issues of concern have been addressed and updated, it does need another inspection. It was noted we can have an alternate inspector do the second inspection.

GLUCOMETERS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT: Firefighter Austin White stated when they are called out on medical calls; they help diagnose patients before the ambulance arrives. At times it could take a while for the ambulance to arrive depending on where the ambulance is coming from. Having glucometers would assist in finding and eliminating what the medical issue is quicker. Alderman Freeman made the motion to purchase two (2) glucometers for the Fire Department. Alderman Bettinger seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:
AYES: 5- Lawrence, Bliss, Freeman, Bettinger, Herndon

UPDATE HOLIDAYS TO INCLUDE JUNETEENTH: It was noted this was due to Aurora updating their holidays observed and our police departments working together. Alderman Freeman asked about adding a floating holiday in lieu of Juneteenth. This would allow each employee the flexibility to choose a day off for religious purposes, special events etc. Mayor Blankenship was concerned how this would affect scheduling and suggested thinking about this first. Alderman Freeman made the motion to postpone this item until the April Meeting. Alderman Herndon seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:
AYES: 5- Freeman, Bettinger, Herndon, Bliss, Lawrence

PARK BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Blankenship appointed Lona Lofton and Deb Dudley to the Marionville Park Board. Alderman Lawrence made the motion to approve the appointments of Lona Lofton and Deb Dudley to the Park Board. Alderman Freeman seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:
AYES: 5- Bettinger, Bliss, Lawrence, Herndon, Freeman

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Blankenship appointed Doug Poplawski to the Marionville Board of Adjustments. Alderman Freeman made the motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Doug Poplawski to the Board of Adjustments. Alderman Bliss seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:
AYES: 5- Bliss, Freeman, Lawrence, Herndon, Bettinger

PLANNING AND ZONING APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Blankenship appointed Donna Hilton to the Planning and Zoning Board. Alderman Freeman made the motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Donna Hilton to Planning and Zoning. Alderman Lawrence seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:
AYES: 5- Herndon, Lawrence, Bliss, Bettinger, Freeman

RESOLUTION 03-2023 “A RESOLUTION CLAIMING A STANDARD ALLOWANCE FOR ARPA FUNDS”

This money will be used for government services for the residents of Marionville and will be spent by the end of the calendar year 2026. Alderman Freeman made the motion to approve Resolution 03-2023 as presented. Alderman Lawrence seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows: AYES: 5- Freeman, Bettinger, Lawrence, Herndon, Bliss

Discuss mowing at the farm (treatment plant): Bob Herndon has been cutting the hay for the past few years and he would like to treat the field for weeds, etc. but he would need a contract to ensure he could continue to cut it for so many years. We would have to what kind of pesticides could be used. Alderman Bliss made the motion to advertise to entertain bids for cutting the hay and maintaining the harvestable fields for five (5) years. Alderman Lawrence seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows: AYES: 5- Herndon, Bliss, Freeman, Bettinger, Lawrence

ALDERMEN COMMENTS

Melissa Freeman: On March 25 from 10:30 – 12:30 there will be a Fundraiser at Logan Park. This includes an Egg Hunt, Silent Auction, \$1.00 hot dogs and free prizes. This money will go towards the Logan Park project. On March 23 SMCOG is coming to discuss a new comprehensive plan for the city and Alderman Freeman would like for the board to come together and think of goals and ideas regarding this. There will be several meetings to accomplish this. Alderman Freeman would like to try to pass a Use Tax again this November. If we calculate internet sales since 2018, Marionville has missed out on almost \$200,000.00. Alderman Freeman felt it would benefit us to invest in flyers and check with other cities that have passed the tax to see how they communicated to their citizens.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Blankenship informed the board we have advertised to receive mowing bids for the cemetery. These will be opened at the April meeting. The ninety day review period to review the 2021 International Building Codes before adopting them is almost over. The books are at City Hall. On March 23, at 9:30 a.m. SMCOG will meet with some of us to get an overall idea of our goals and concerns for the future of Marionville. This will be the first of many meetings to update our comprehensive plan. The municipal election is April 4.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Bliss made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Alderman Herndon. All voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Dale Blankenship, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debbie Bateman, City Clerk

