

REGULAR MEETING – MARION COMMON COUNCIL – MARCH 7, 2023 – 7:00 P.M., CITY HALL

The Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana met in regular session on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

On the call of the roll the members were shown to be absent or present as follows:

Present: Fordyce, Cline, Stodghill-Weeks, Luzadder, Henderson, Cowgill, Cain, and Fouce.

Absent: Brunner.

The minutes from the previous regular meeting of February 21, 2023 and the special meeting of February 27, 2023 were presented. Councilman David Cain said he moves that they approve the minutes from the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 regular meeting. Councilman Brian Cowgill seconded Cain's motion. Council President Robin Fouce said it's been moved by Councilman Dave Cain, seconded by Councilman Brian Cowgill that the February 21, 2023 regular meeting minutes be approved. Any question? Roll call please. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye: Fordyce, Cline, Stodghill-Weeks, Luzadder, Henderson, Cowgill, Cain, and Fouce. Nay: None. Mr. Cain then said, Madam President, he moves that they pass the minutes from the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 special meeting. Cowgill said, second. Fouce said it's been moved by Councilman Dave Cain, seconded by Councilman Brian Cowgill that the February 27, 2023 special meeting minutes be approved. Any question? Roll call please. Motion carried by the following vote. Aye: Fordyce, Cline, Stodghill-Weeks, Luzadder, Cowgill, Cain, and Fouce. Nay: None. Abstain: Henderson.

Council President Robin Fouce said they have reached the part of Committee Reports so do they have any committee reports? Councilman Brian Cowgill said they had a Board of Works meeting yesterday and they approved, put up three houses for sale – 1120 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street at \$800, 2816 S. Boots Street for \$800, and 2913 S. Nebraska Street for \$800. Mr. James Loftis came and spoke on the bids for the park that's being completely redone. They originally, the company, he only had the one bid and the company that originally bid on it last fall or last summer, whenever it was, their original bid was \$285,000 and because of the time, they did increase their bid, like everybody else has been doing, and their current bid came in at \$307,320. The Board of Works has taken it under advisement and they'll go on from there after, for the next meeting. And then, in the Building Department, Whitney spoke on behalf of Jerry Foustnight and they approved the demolition of 1904 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, to get that on the list, and then they had a question on the architect, gosh his mind's going blank, Halstead, thank you, Halstead Incorporated where they had done the designs for the city for the park project and they had asked if they had bid for that and the city does not have to bid for that. Mrs. Flores brought that to their attention. And the code, if anybody wants to know that, the code is I.C. 5-16-11.1 and it's under Article 4. And then they did the payment of the bills. There was no questions on the payment of the bills and they paid \$309,026.20 and then they adjourned, Cowgill said. Ms. Fouce said, thank you, Councilman Cowgill. Do they have any other committee reports? Okay, they'll move on to their Neighborhood Spotlight.

NEIGHBORHOOD MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT – Council President Robin Fouce said she is ecstatic to introduce to them tonight Joshua Johnson and Alicia Johnson and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Make a Difference Community Service Club from McCulloch Middle School. If they'll all step up front, step to the podium. They want to honor these young folk and they're going to hear the phenomenal leadership they're taking in the community and so she wants them all to stand up front so they can see firsthand, Fouce said. Joshua Johnson said, Council President Fouce, they are the Make a Difference Club. The seven students standing here are the core of the group. They were actually picking up bags of trash in the neighborhood last Tuesday when the Council President came by, thought the kids were kids that were in trouble and had to do community service or thought that was a possibility and was warmly excited and welcomed and praised them because they're volunteers, doing it for no other reason other than to try to make a small difference. He teaches U.S. History, his wife also works at McCulloch. Their group meets typically on Tuesday's. Sometimes (inaudible) they learn about different opportunities, other times they do. They have done things from work with those that foster injured pets through the, affiliated with the city but individuals that do it in their home to something as simple as McCulloch had not been decorated the last few years for Christmas other than the office and they recruited about 20 of their friends and they spent several days decorating from top to bottom. Because the students did it, nobody bothered or messed or disrupted anything. They've done things like some have helped a disabled single mom and her family move. Just little, small projects. They've gone to one of the volunteer Fire Departments and learned

2

NEIGHBORHOOD MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT Continued

how that when they're 16, they can sign up in different capacities, how to serve in those areas. They are honored to try to make a small difference here, Johnson said. Fouce said, well, she doesn't know about their small difference. She thinks it is a big difference. He and these young folks exemplify the stand that they need their community to take. She was on her way to the special meeting last week and she observed them. If they know her, since she's been on the Council, she talks about South Selby Street. They were on South Selby Street with trash bags, picking up not a mess that they made but a mess that was in their community and she just thought that was just so awesome and she invited them here to talk to them and for them to see firsthand the good things that they have in their community and the things that they can mimic. They need to pick something up from these fine young folk and make Marion a better place to be. She told Johnson if he would like to introduce the kids, she would love that, and then they'll come up and they can shake the Council's hand, if they will. Is everybody okay with that? Councilman Mike Cline told Fouce, when she gets a chance, he just wants to say something. Fouce said, okay. They can come up and shake the Council's hand and then they'll take a group photo for their memory bank. And they want to encourage them all to let them know what they need to help them. If they have it, they will do it. They want to encourage anyone within earshot of this to join the bandwagon, help make a difference in their community. Thank you. Councilman? Mr. Cline said, yeah, their daughter teaches at McCulloch and he's heard of them through her. They are a fine example, not just for the school, for the whole darn town, county. Thank you guys, keep it up, Cline said. Fouce asked the Council, does anyone else want to say anything? Councilman Cowgill said, let them introduce themselves first. Fouce said, okay, please introduce yourselves. Mr. Johnson said, okay, from his right to left, they have Brooklyn Smith, Jada Kelly, Drake Witt, Olivia Jones, Jose Chiquito, Isaiah Rumble, Logan Davis, and his wife, Alicia Johnson. Mr. Cowgill said, he firsthand, Mr. Logan there, he's a very good friend of his. He's worked with him on a couple of different occasions. He came out to the V.A. for the Let My Light Shine when they put lights on, he doesn't remember how many thousands out. When they were picking them up, it was snowy, it was cold, everybody was wet. Logan never once complained the whole hours they were out there and that really impressed him, and his brother was there with him as well. So, he has a business and he hired Logan for, he has a lawncare and landscaping business but they plow snow and he can do the driveways just fine because his plow does it but the sidewalks, he's too old to do them sidewalks now. Logan and his little brother came out and (inaudible) again, out all night long, never once complained, very hard workers, and he's sure each and every one of you guys are like, he had to keep waking them up but other than that, you guys all, he's sure, do a fine job and it shows with what you guys (Mr. & Mrs. Johnson) are teaching them so kudos to you guys as well, Cowgill said. Councilman Steve Henderson asked Mr. Johnson, can he tell them, just real quickly, how this program started and is it an after school program? Johnson told Henderson McCulloch has, lets teachers and staff sponsor different clubs, anything that there's at least a handful of students interested in, and in teaching, this is his first year teaching there, and he asked different things that people would be interested in and service was something that obviously some of them were interested in. And so, basically, they got the principal's permission. Mrs. Pogue intended to be here tonight, he thinks this is the first school day she's missed over the year, she's very ill, and she encourages these kind of things. They meet most Tuesday's and do little projects here and there. And then, many of them are also involved in other projects beyond their club. But, his wife and he also sponsor, for example, a photography club, just as an example of the kind of clubs. There's a culture, culture club, that another teacher sponsors, there's an art club, those kind of things, Johnson said. Council President Fouce asked, any further comment, Council? Okay, they're welcome to step around and come up and they'll take a group photo, if everyone on the Council would agree to that. Do we have someone with a phone or a camera that could take their picture? Their photographer was unable to show up this evening. The students all shook hands with the Council and then took a group photo. Cowgill said he actually went to McCulloch and they didn't have a program like that at that time. They didn't have a program like that at that time so it's good. He doesn't know if Robin, when she went there in the old days when they took the horses to the school, if they had that then or not. Fouce said, oh, he's so funny. Thank you all.

Ms. Fouce said Councilwoman Annalisa Stodghill-Weeks has a shout out she would like to make. Stodghill-Weeks said, so last Friday when they had a lot of rain and the winds, she was coming home and there was a tree down at the intersection of 29<sup>th</sup> and Meridian. She emailed James Loftis, had to leave to go pick a child up in Gas City, got home,

it was already taken care of. So not even 20 minutes that him and his crew came and cleaned up that area and removed the tree. So, thank you, thank you so much.

Council President Robin Fouce said, okay, she will go into sort of her notes. One thing is that they need to schedule an Executive Session. She would like to do that March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Councilman Mike Cline asked, and the reason? Fouce said Metal Source. Councilman Gary Fordyce asked, is this from the counselors that they have? Council attorney Martin Harker said yes, Mr. Stephenson, their counsel from Indianapolis, yes. Fouce said, Clerk, if you would make, Kathi and Debbie, the necessary notifications and posting, they'd appreciate that. March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. That's prior to their next Council meeting. Secondly, she is pleased to announce that the lawsuit against the City Council was dismissed and that lawsuit was Linda Wilk vs. Marion Common Council, was dismissed. And then, she believes that's all of her notifications, thank you. She'll go into Unfinished Business, Fouce said.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2-2023 3<sup>RD</sup> READING – WAS TABLED ON 2/21/23

An Ordinance of the City of Marion, Indiana, appropriating certain funds for the City of Marion, Indiana, and providing for the effective date thereof. From the EDIT Fund to Friendship Park Project the amount of \$300,000. Council President Robin Fouce said Appropriation Ordinance 2-2023 is continuing to be tabled. They still have some things with the bidding process. Once they get that, they'll be happy to hear that. She notified James Loftis and once they get the necessary information, they'll be glad to receive that and move forward with that.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 6-2023 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

The City Clerk read Appropriation Ordinance No. 6-2023 by title only, an Ordinance of the City of Marion, Indiana, appropriating certain funds for the City of Marion, Indiana, and providing for the effective date thereof. From the General Fund to Board of Works Other Services and Charges – Miscellaneous Contractual Services account the amount of \$127,000. Julie Flores, City Controller, told the Council she's here to answer any questions they may have on this ordinance. Council President Robin Fouce asked Flores, does she have a statement? So she doesn't have a statement, she just wants them to go into.... Flores told Fouce she thinks they already know what it is but she will, if that's what she requires. Fouce told Flores she doesn't require it but she asks them do they have any questions. She's asking her did she have a statement. If she doesn't, then she'll open up the floor for questions. Mrs. Flores said, no, she doesn't have any statements. Ms. Fouce said, okay, thank you. The floor is opened up for questions regarding Appropriation Ordinance No. 6-2023. Barring no question, she will entertain a motion to pass to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Councilman Mike Cline said, Madam President, he moves they pass Appropriation Ordinance No. 6-2023 to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and public hearing. Councilman David Cain seconded. Fouce said Appropriation Ordinance 6-2023, Councilman Mike Cline motioned to pass it to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and public hearing, Councilman David Cain seconded that motion. Does she have any questions? Barring no question, roll call please. Motion carried by the following vote. Aye: Fordyce, Cline, Stodghill-Weeks, Luzadder, Henderson, Cowgill, Cain, and Fouce. Nay: None.

Council President Robin Fouce said she did want to take a quick moment to reinvite Reverend Tanya Smith to the podium. She wants her to share with them where she presides and the fabulous things they're doing. Reverend Smith said, thank you, Madam President. Good evening to the members of the City Council. She's Reverend Tanya Smith, she is the wife of Firefighter Monte Smith. She is the Pastor of Allen Temple AME Church and also the Executive Director of the Minority Health Coalition of Grant County Incorporated. She's been there for 25 years now and serving as Pastor since October 30<sup>th</sup> of last year. They just received today at Allen Temple their historical marker and it's for civil rights and they are excited about it and you all will get an invitation to the unveiling of that marker and they're all abuzz right now for that. So, she just wanted to share that with them all tonight at the Council and thank you, Madam President, and the Council, Reverend Smith said. Fouce told Smith, thank you for joining them and she doesn't know if they heard her say she is with our firefighter family so they appreciate the family sacrifice that goes on and the

4

support that she knows she renders ongoing and the work she's doing in their community. Thank you for praying with them today, they appreciate it. Councilman Brian Cowgill asked Reverend Smith, is she ready for all the time she and Monte's going to get to spend with each other here soon? Reverend Smith said, let her say this. Everyone says, when her daughter graduated, they said oh, now you're going to have empty nest. Well her nest isn't empty until Monte leaves too. She loves him dearly but he has to work. Bills still come and he has to work so he has to go out too.

Council President Fouce asked, do we have any further comment? Other than that, she'll entertain a motion to adjourn. Councilman Gary Fordyce said he would make a motion to adjourn. Councilman Mike Cline seconded. Fouce said motion's been made by Fordyce to adjourn, Councilman Cain, she's sorry, Councilman Cline seconded it. Question? Roll call please. Vote was as follows: Aye: Fordyce, Cline, Stodghill-Weeks, Luzadder, Henderson, Cowgill, Cain, and Fouce. Nay: None. Fouce said they are adjourned, time being 7:25 p.m.