

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FALLS
CITY OF MARLIN

On this the 11th day of June 2024, the City Council of the City of Marlin, Texas convened in a REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING at 6:00pm, the same being open to the public and having been posted as prescribed in Local Government Code, Section 551.041 with the following members present to wit:

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Susan Byrd

Mayor Pro Tem Debra Levels-McDavid

Michael Milnes (absent)

Morris Watson (absent)

Scottie Henderson

Cecil Sparks(absent)

Joe Taylor

STAFF

Maryann Waddle, City Secretary

James Parker, City Attorney

1. Call to Order by Mayor Byrd at 6:00pm.
2. Roll Call by Maryann Waddle.
3. Certify Posting in accordance with State Law by Maryann Waddle.
4. Pledge by Mayor Byrd and Invocation by Pastor Johnson.
5. Conduct swearing in of newly appointed Councilmember for Pct. 4.
Councilmember Henderson was sworn in before the meeting.
6. Issuance of a Proclamation to honor Outstanding Students/Athletes at Marlin High School.
Dr. Henson representative for Marlin ISD receipted the proclamations.
7. Approval of the Council Meeting Minutes from the May 14, 2024 City Council Meeting.
Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid motioned to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from the May 14, 2024 City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid, Mayor Byrd, Councilmember Henderson, Councilmember Taylor.

Nays: none

Absent: Councilmember Milnes, Councilmember Watson, Councilmember Sparks.

8. **UPDATES/STATUS:** City Business Not needing immediate discussion or action from City Council. (2-3 mins.).

City Manager – Updates (City Manager)

Court – Update (Court Clerk Supervisor)

❖ **Gross collected-** \$32,255.84

❖ **State fees-** \$10,961.10

❖ **Kept by city-** \$21,294.74

❖ **Monthly reports are completed**

Police – Update (Chief Hommel)

Submitted NIBRS reports.

16 Arrest 27 Suspicious Persons / Vehicle /Circumstances

Unwanted person 13

Total Calls 575 Disturbances 20

Accidents 23

Citations 115 Burglary 7 Shots fired 2

Assist another Agency 18.

Stolen vehicle 1, recovered 1.

Fights with weapons 3.

On May 4th, officer responded to a shooting with victims.
May 18th, officers got into a pursuit with an intoxicated driver.
May 16th, we arrested the subject in connection with the shooting on May 4th.
On May 16th, officers arrested subject DWI/accident w pedestrian

Fire Department – Update (Chief Parker)

- Responded to 32 emergency incidents during month of May. The highest call type for the month was During May 22 and May 23rd storms, all off-duty MFRD personnel were recalled due to high call volume & widespread damage.
- Four (4) MFRD vehicles were staffed.
- Engine 1 has returned from steering repairs and PM. This truck undergo minor in-house repairs before being placed back in frontline service.
- Spring/early summer hydrant service has been postponed until severe weather subsides. Will include vegetation management around hydrants.
- Finance Department – Update (Finance Director)
- Exploring trade or sale options for ladder truck obtained from Marlin VFD. Neither station is capable of housing this unit due to its height. Several quality, pre-owned ladder trucks have been located that can fit into Station 2 without a need for costly building modifications (recently quoted \$20,000 for mods).
- Meeting with City Ambulance management in June to finalize & submit FRO Agreement. This was delayed due to recent severe weather and increased workload on MFRD & OEM.
- One (1) firefighter obtained Driver/Operator-Pumper certification through the TX Commission on Fire Protection during the month of May.
- Currently hiring for one (1) full-time Firefighter/EMT position.

Finance -Update

Accounts payable are current.

Working bank reconciliations – Finishing up April 2024.

Bank balances as of May 31, 2024

General Operating : 2,616,473.63

5% Water fund: 391,639.32

Water sales for the month of May \$134,215.

We have hired two new employees for the water department. Heather Washington has returned to work in the water department; and Adriane Thomas.

We are facing several problems with the AVR program. We will be returning to INCODE as soon as our 30day notice expires.

There appears to be 260 meters according to Gude's program that do not read. This means either low battery or no meter. I have instructed Gude to check on these and to install or correct any that show on the list. At this time, he has installed approximately 20 meters.

On the financials would it be alright to not include those accounts that have a (0) balance. Such as those that have been paid off (Example 2016 Bond)

Consider raising rates for Bulk water too low.

- \$22.00 for 0-2000 gallons then \$6.00 per 1000 gallons after the first 2000 gallons.

We have several thousand dollars outstanding in water bills. I have been working on getting this resolved. I recently sent out notices for over \$ 19,000. Approximately \$ 1,900 has been collected as of today.

Water Department – Update (Water Office Supervisor)

Was covered with Finance.

Public Works – Update (Public Works Director)

No report was given

Water Plant – Update (Water Plant Supervisor)

Update was provided and pump repairs was discussed ,later item, .

Marketing /EDC – Update (Tourism Dir.)

- Introduction

- Name
- Born in Marlin
- Graduated MHS
- Before being employed by the City of Marlin, I was self-employed as a management consultant.
 - IT
 - HR
 - Operations
 - Facility
 - Financial
 - Marketing
- I spent the first week reading hundreds of emails in my inbox and responding to those needing attention, getting set up, attending meetings, generally meeting people/explaining what I do and contending with many computer issues.
- Since that time, here are some of the things I have done
 - I have weekly meetings John Barret regarding economic development
 - I have weekly meetings with Mayor/Acting City Manager Byrd receiving updates to happenings of which I should be aware
 - I have attended Rotary, Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development monthly meetings
 - Tracy Dimmerson turned over information regarding events that she had already solidified
 - Thank you, Tracy, for your hard work and accomplishing securing sponsorship funds for the fireworks show later this month
 - As you know, the air show was canceled due to weather conditions. I worked with the Young Eagles who provide the airplane rides and have rescheduled the event for the morning of June 29th because that is the only day they had available for the rest of the year.
 - I have begun securing more Food Trucks for the fireworks show
 - I have begun to get TV advertising rates because I want to advertise events in Marlin on TV to increase attendance and tourism
 - I have developed some marking concepts, drafted and have begun execution of a marking plan.
 - I was informed that I was in charge of the marquee at Williams Pavillion
 - And that I needed to develop rates for display advertising
 - They are as follows:
 - \$ 20.00 per day for solo information
 - \$ 100.00 for 7 days
 - \$ 10.00 for being of up to seven messages on marquee
 - \$ 50.00 for entire week
 - Non-profits are ½ price for numbers 1 & 2
 - Non-profits are free for numbers 4 & 5
 - I have started drafting instructions for the person in this position to make getting a new person up-to-speed easier and faster
 - Here are some of the concepts
 - *What's happening in the PM (Positive Marlin) | Brought to you by the Marketing and Economic Development Department*
 - The purpose of this e-marketing is to only share positive information to change the narrative about Marlin and begin to change some mindsets that exists in Marlin's community

- **TYSK...TYSK...TYSK... (Things You Should Know) or at least want to know**
 - The purpose of this e-marketing is to provide citizens of Marlin with factual pertinent information
 - When possible links will be provided to fact check information
- **Marlin, Texas Mineral Water City of Texas**
 - *Facebook presence had to be re-established*
 - *I did not have access to the passwords to continue using it*
 - *The previous Facebook presence had 1,200 followers*
 - *I intend to rebrand it with colors that are consistent with EDC, MISD, the mural*
- **Economic Development**
 - **IBT**
 - IBT Group is a business conglomerate specialized in the comprehensive development of public and private projects, especially in the health, infrastructure, water, and energy sectors.
 - Grants manager flew in from Florida
 - We had discussions
 - I requested information
 - Has not delivered
 - **Philanthropist/Developer**
 - Wants to build affordable housing in Marlin
 - Has all of the players lined up
 - Builder
 - Financing
 - Nothing will be moved forward unless City Council says to do so
 - I am currently learning the permit process in order to determine where there are gaps needing to be filled
- **Circle T**
 - Dr. Barrett is lead on this project
- **Doing research on abandoned railroad property**
- **Met with UFC (United Fitness Campaign)**
- **Call from BCBS regarding wanting to sponsor health related events**
- **Call from Dr. Linda Schultz professor of chemistry at Tarleton State University**
- **Publishing a study of mineral water in the state of Texas of which Marlin is one.**
 - If selected, study will appear in an environmental journal
 - Tested Marlin's water and the results were good
 - Mayor read draft and approved it
- **David Epstein – Community Based Organizations**

9. 1. Take action to approve a 15% contingent fee contract with Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins and Mott, LLP, pursuant to Section 6.30 of the Texas Property Tax Code, said contract being for the collection of delinquent property taxes owed to the City of Marlin, and notice of said contingent fee contract is posted with the agenda in accordance with Section 2254 of the Texas Government Code (proposed contract attached).

Presentation was given to council on services provided.

2. Take action to authorize the Mayor to send a Notice of Termination of Attorney-Client Relationship to existing collections firm.

No Action.

10. Discussion and or take action City Manager applicants and the next steps in the interviewing / hiring process

11. Update on TWDB, CWSRF, & DWSRF Projects and city road projects including but not limited to Robert E. Lee from the MRB Group with a summary of the differences of the project.

Update was provided to council .

12. Consider and or approve a resolution appointing Kayci Nehring (Falls County Tas Assessor Collector) to Calculate Effective Tax rate for 2024.

Councilmember Taylor motioned to appoint Kayci Nehring (Falls County Tas Assessor Collector) to Calculate Effective Tax rate for 2024.

Councilmember Henderson seconded the motion and the motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid, Mayor Byrd, Councilmember Henderson, Councilmember Taylor.

Nays: none

Absent: Councilmember Milnes, Councilmember Watson, Councilmember Sparks.

13. Consider and or approve an interlocal agreement for assessment and collection of taxes with Falls County.

Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid motioned to approve an interlocal agreement for assessment and collection of taxes with Falls County.

Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid, Mayor Byrd, Councilmember Henderson, Councilmember Taylor.

Nays: none

Absent: Councilmember Milnes, Councilmember Watson, Councilmember Sparks.

14. Discussion and or take action to authorize the publication of notice or advertisement requesting bids or proposals for sludge removal services and related work at the Waste Water Treatment Plant..

Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid motioned to authorize the publication of notice or advertisement requesting bids or proposals for sludge removal services and related work at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried as follows :

Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid, Mayor Byrd, Councilmember Henderson, Councilmember Taylor.

Nays: none

Absent: Councilmember Milnes, Councilmember Watson, Councilmember Sparks.

15. Consider and adopt a resolution to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute a Payment Plan Agreement between the City of Marlin and Underwater Acoustics International, LLC, (UAI) to pay for survey and inspection and condition assessment services of two City of Marlin earthen dams.

No Action.


16. Discussion and or take action on a recommendation of the MEDC (the Marlin 4-B Economic Development Corporation) regarding a proposed form Business Improvement Grant Application and related agreement as approved by the MEDC at their May 21st Meeting.
Councilmember Taylor motioned to approve the form Business Improvement Grant Application and related agreement as approved by the MED with a limit of \$30,000 in a year .
Councilmember Henderson seconded the motion and the motion carried as follows:
Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid, Mayor Byrd, Councilmember Henderson, Councilmember Taylor.
Nays: none
Absent: Councilmember Milnes, Councilmember Watson, Councilmember Sparks
17. Discussion and or take action on Quote for repairs at the Park Street Lift Station.
Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid motioned to approve Quote for repairs at the Park Street Lift Station.
Councilmember Henderson seconded the motion and the motion carried as follows:
Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid, Mayor Byrd, Councilmember Henderson, Councilmember Taylor.
Nays: none
Absent: Councilmember Milnes, Councilmember Watson, Councilmember Sparks
18. Discussion on setting dates for Budget Workshops
Dates will be scheduled coming up.
19. Discussion on ordinance to address hooved animals and exotic reptiles.
Item will be brought back .
20. Consider and approve the appoint of Elizabeth Nelson to the Charter Commission.
Mayor Pro-Tem Levels -McDavid motioned to appoint Elizabeth Nelson to the Charter Commission.
Councilmember Henderson seconded the motion and the motion carried as follows:
Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid, Mayor Byrd, Councilmember Henderson, Councilmember Taylor.
Nays: none
Absent: Councilmember Milnes, Councilmember Watson, Councilmember Sparks
21. Discussion and or take action on a resolution changing signatories on city bank accounts.
The council was informed that one signature was to be removed and Mrs. Rosemary Peoples to take the place , this away the city had two signers until the city manager position is filled.
Councilmember Henderson motioned to take Mrs. Martinez off and put Rosemary peoples on a resolution changing signatories on city bank accounts.
Mayor Pro-Tem Levels McDavid second the motion and the motion carried as follows:
Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid, Mayor Byrd, Councilmember Henderson, Councilmember Taylor.
Nays: none
Absent: Councilmember Milnes, Councilmember Watson, Councilmember Sparks
22. Future agenda items: Discuss and Consider items for placement on a future City Council Agenda.
Budget dates.
23. Citizens Comments.
James Guest addressed the council on his firm and tax collections.
Frances Fisher addressed the council on the dog shelter.
Dorothy Sanders addressed the council on livestock and public safety.

24. Adjourn.

Councilmember Henderson motioned to adjourn , Mayor Pro-Tem Levels-McDavid seconded the motion . Meeting ended at 8:21pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 9TH OF July, 2024.





Susan Byrd, Mayor

Maryann Waddle, City Secretary