

REGULAR MEETING – MARION COMMON COUNCIL – MARCH 7, 2017 – 7:00 P.M., CITY HALL

The Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana met in regular session on Tuesday, the 7th day of March, 2017 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Before the prayer was given, Councilman Brad Luzadder said they do want to remember their fellow member, Don Batchelor, as he is back in the hospital and will be going into rehabilitation so please remember to lift him up in prayer.

After the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, Council President Jim Brunner told Mr. Stephenson, glad to have him back and they thank Mr. Persinger for filling in at the last meeting.

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

Present: Miller, Smith, Cain, Henderson, Johnson, Luzadder and Brunner.

Absent: Homer and Batchelor.

The minutes of the previous regular meeting of February 21, 2017 were presented. On a motion by Councilwoman Deb Cain, 2nd by Councilman Henry Smith, the minutes were approved as presented by a unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilwoman Lynn Johnson told the Council tonight, at 5:30 pm, the first meeting was held for the new Compliance Committee in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. Steve Henderson is Chair, she was present and Dave Homer was absent. They had others present. They had Deb Cain, they had Brad Luzadder, they had Mr. Henry Smith, Councilman Smith was there and the newspaper. They had a discussion about abatements and as the first order of agenda for their committee and they had a lengthy discussion of what the ordinances are for abatements and how the process works. They came to a conclusion that they would like to ask, and they did ask and voted on the recommendation to move General Ordinance No. 38-2008 to the Rules Committee for review so that they can start the process of reviewing these abatements. They passed that and then they decided to have another meeting at 5:30 pm two weeks from now and that's the 21st of March, Johnson said. Council President Jim Brunner said, so the next meeting will be two weeks from today on March 21st at 5:30 pm. Same room, correct? Mrs. Johnson replied, yes. They figured they have about a year or less than a year to start this process because the things that they will do will be pertinent to next year, 2018.

Being no further committee reports, Council President Jim Brunner asked Mrs. Cain if would she care to read the letter that she sent out. He thinks that would be nice to put that into the minutes, if she would please. Councilwoman Deb Cain told Brunner, yes and said: "Mr. President, I would like the minutes to reflect that I'm asking the Mayor and all the department heads to be placed on the agenda four weeks from today. The agenda item will be requesting each department's presence at the City Council meeting on April 4, 2017 to give us a detailed and descriptive plan for the City of Marion for the next year. I am concerned with these no agenda meetings we have been holding. The community needs to understand that other than working on ordinances for the city, any agenda items and businesses that come to us, we do not go out and campaign for them and I would like all of us to feel confident that Marion is on the move forward and not stagnant. I would also like to request an accounting report from Umbaugh, detailing everything they have been doing for the city this past year. I would like to know their findings from their audit of our finances and the work that they have completed in the past year or more. We have been told that a report is forthcoming and it's ugly and I think I have quoted this statement by the Mayor pretty accurately. What specifically have they done, what has been the result, how has it benefited the city? I believe it is time we should be able to look at that report, even if it is not complete. We all understand that such work will take time as we did not get where we are overnight. In this report I would also like to request a breakdown of what the city has paid for their time, the time that they have provided the city, where these funds came from to make those fee payments. What are the plans for their services and anticipated general fees for the next 3 years? Thank you and I also have a copy of this request that will be given to the City Clerk for distribution to the administration." Mr. Brunner told Mrs. Cain he noticed that the first paragraph of her request does state that she would like to have a report of the first area of items on April 4th. Does she want to put a date on the Umbaugh or does she just want to pass that along and see what they come up with? Cain told Brunner, that's a good idea. Maybe we'll put a date on it for the meeting after April 4th. What would that date be?

Brunner replied, yeah, he was going to recommend, since we're asking and that could be a lengthy procedure on April 4th, can we make an addendum to her.... He doesn't want to change her request but if we could put "I would like to also request an accounting report on the evening of April 21st, just add that between the word "report" and "from". Does that work with everybody? Mrs. Cain stated, that's great, thank you. Councilman Alan Miller said, that wouldn't be the right date. Deputy Clerk Debbie Goodman asked, wouldn't it be the 18th? It should be the 18th, she said. The 18th, he would think, Miller said. Mr. Brunner responded, he's sorry. Mrs. Cain stated, the 18th, okay. Brunner asked Cain, can she make that change and then when we give it to, we'll place that in the minutes per the change. Brunner then asked the Council, does anyone care to comment on what Mrs. Cain just read to us at this time? Councilwoman Lynn Johnson said she had a question. Do we need to approve what she is doing or she can just put that in the minutes? Council attorney Phil Stephenson said he thinks the most appropriate thing would be it's a request from the entire Council as opposed to one Council member. Councilman Brad Luzadder stated that he would have no problem vocally saying that he supports Mrs. Cain's request and he would go along with having his name placed with hers for a report from the administration. Council President Brunner said, we'll start on this side of the room. Councilman Steve Henderson said he would agree. Councilwoman Lynn Johnson said she would agree. She'd like to have her name on that too. Councilman Alan Miller said, sure. Is he suggesting we just make a motion and vote on it as a Council? Mr. Stephenson said he thinks they can do it either way. Miller then said, fine, yeah. Councilman Henry Smith said yes. Brunner stated, and obviously Mrs. Cain, she's fine and, as President, he's certainly fine. He asked Mrs. Goodman if she would note in the minutes that we had a unanimous backing of what Mrs. Cain presented to us and he will be sure that.... Can we get this retyped and he will be sure, as the President, along with her name, to be sure that the Mayor gets this this week, okay?

Being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by Luzadder, 2nd by Henderson, the meeting adjourned. Time being 7:11 p.m.