

Council Members

Buddy Collins
Chairperson

Elista H. Smith
Vice Chairperson

John Q. Atkinson Jr.
Allen W. Floyd
Simon Jenkins
Thomas Shaw
Milton W. Troy, II

Office Of
Marion County Council

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G. Timothy Harper
Administrator

Kent M. Williams
Deputy Administrator

Sabrina Davis
Clerk To Council

Charles L. McLain, III
Deputy Administrator



January 10, 2017

The Marion County Council held its regular meeting, on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 9:00 A.M. in the Marion County Council Chambers, Administration Building, Marion, South Carolina. Members present were Buddy Collins, Chairman; Elista H. Smith, Vice Chairperson, Councilman John Q. Atkinson, Jr., Councilman Allen W. Floyd, Councilman Thomas E. Shaw and Councilman Milton W. Troy, II. Also present were Kent M. Williams, Deputy Administrator; and Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council. A representative from the Star & Enterprise was not present and duly notified.

Absent- G. Timothy Harper, Administrator, Charles L. McLain, III, County Attorney

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order and asked Councilman Allen W. Floyd to lead the Invocation, after which he welcomed visitors and read the Freedom of Information Announcement.

Chairman Collins stated that agenda item #5 needs to be moved to item #4. Motion was made by Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Shaw, to amend the agenda reversing item #5 and item #4. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Collins turned the meeting over to Attorney Ben Zeigler who stood in for Mr. Charles L. McLain, III the County Attorney. Chairman Collins welcomed newly elected council member, Mr. Oscar Foxworth, who will be representing District #2. Attorney Ben Zeigler administered the oath of office to Mr. Foxworth.

Attorney Ben Zeigler presided over the Election of Officers for 2017. Mr. Zeigler opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Councilwoman Elista H. Smith nominated Councilman Buddy Collins to serve as Chairman for 2017. Councilman Atkinson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. Zeigler opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman for 2017. Councilman Floyd nominated Councilwoman Elista H. Smith to serve as Vice Chairperson for 2017. Councilman Atkinson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. Zeigler opened the floor for nominations for Chaplain for 2017. Councilman Shaw nominated Councilman Allen W. Floyd to serve as Chaplain for 2017. Chairman Collins seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. Zeigler administered the oath of office to Chairman Buddy Collins, Vice Chairperson Elista H. Smith, and Chaplain Allen W. Floyd.

Vice Chairperson Smith thanked Council for their confidence and support.

Chairman Collins thanked Council for their confidence. He asked Council to continue to support as they have done in the past to help the betterment of Marion County.

Motion was made by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 13, 2016.

The County Attorney told Council that item A. first and second reading for ordinances listed on the agenda as follows was not ready: **A.** Second Reading of Ordinance #2016-12 An Ordinance to Approve an Increase in Salary for all County Council Members pursuant to South Carolina Code 4-9-100; **B.** First Reading of Ordinance #2017-01 An Ordinance of Marion County, South Carolina Approving Water Lines Easements with MARCO Rural Water Company, Inc. to install water lines on Patriots Court.

Attorney Ben Zeigler told Council that item A. on the agenda; Second Reading of Ordinance #2016-12 An Ordinance to Approve an Increase in Salary for all County Council Members pursuant to South Carolina Code 4-9-100 was not ready.

Attorney Ben Zeigler told Council that item B. on the agenda; First Reading of Ordinance #2017-01 An Ordinance of Marion County, South Carolina Approving Water Lines Easements with MARCO Rural Water Company, Inc. to install water lines on Patriots Court was ready; Attorney Ben Zeigler introduced the title of the ordinance and stated that this constitutes first reading of Ordinance #2017-01.

Councilman Troy asked where is Patriots Court? Mr. Williams stated that he was not sure.

There were no reports given by Committee #1 or Committee #2.

Chairman Collins stated that Committee #1 has a pending matter.

Mr. Joey Price who is the EMS Director appeared before Council to discuss EMS vehicles. Mr. Price reported to Council that their fleet is in need of being replaced. Out of five ambulances, they have three of them that are at least seven years old with more than 200,000 miles. The County purchased two remounts and they have approximately 100,000 miles. He stated that this left three trucks to run and no spares. There were several mechanical issues with the ambulances. Mr. Price stated that Dillon County was gracious enough to let the County borrow one of their ambulances. He stated that currently there are three ambulances covering the County, but they are still in need of a spare. Mr. Price reported that the equipment needs to be updated. The cardiac monitor or heart monitors are not supported after August of this year however they added two more years to the service contract. The monitors are outdated and in very poor condition. The power stretchers are at the end of their lifespan. A new power stretcher cost around \$15,000 each and three of them are needed. He stated if the County purchased two new ambulances they could add the stretchers into the financing and cover this issue as well. Council had several questions regarding this matter. After a discussion by members of Council, Motion was made by Councilman Troy, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, to refer this said matter to Committee #2. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Collins thanked Mr. Price for his presentation.

Vice Chairperson Smith scheduled Committee #2 meeting for Tuesday, January 17th at 5:30 p.m.

The Deputy Administrator told Council that there is nothing new to report in reference to the Capital Sales Tax.

The Deputy Administrator asked Mr. Price to update Council on Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Price reported that several church groups are working in the area. A youth group from New York will be arriving in March to assist with the disaster relief. He stated that Ms. Jeanne Norris is working on the County's reimbursement from FEMA. The Marion County Recovery Committee will distribute goods on Thursday, January 12th. Mr. Price stated the trees and limbs debris removal is almost completed.

The Deputy Administrator told Council that the Town of Nichols has raised around \$176,000 to help the storm survivors. He stated that the Marion County Healthcare Foundation will match up to \$100,000. The County relief fund is around \$40,000. The Marion County Healthcare Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000.

The Deputy Administrator mentioned to Council that the City of Marion Diversity Group is planning a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity March on Monday, January 16, 2017. Mr. Williams mentioned to Council that the 30th Annual Mid-Year Conference will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina.

The Deputy Administrator mentioned to Council that the Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017, at Woodhaven. The Mullins Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017, at the Academy for Career and Technology Center.

The Deputy Administrator asked Council to table item (12) appointment of board members to the Pee Dee Food Hub.

Councilman Troy thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his physical challenges. Councilman Troy suggested to Chairman Collins that Mr. Price takes a look at the maintenance plan in reference to the EMS vehicles.

Councilman Atkinson and the members of Council welcomed newly elected Councilman Oscar Foxworth. Councilman Foxworth thanked Council for their warm welcome and also thanked those that came out to support.

The Deputy Administration stated that the County needs a short term solution and a long term solution in regards to the EMS vehicles matter.

Chairman Collins brought up the issues in reference to the Detention Center. Chairman Collins stated that the Detention Center is over populated. Chairman Collins stated that a special term of court may be needed in order to get those inmates release. Sheriff, Wallace stated that the Solicitor is the one that calls the cases to trial. Chairman Collins asked the Sheriff to have the number of magistrate cases versus the number of State Solicitor's cases. Chairman Collins stated that there are several repair issues that need to be addressed at the Detention Center. He also mentioned some problems with the roads. Mr. Williams stated that there needs to be a line of communication between the Council and the solicitor.

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There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Councilman Troy, seconded by Vice Chairperson Smith, to adjourn the meeting at approximately: 10:15 A.M.

Buddy Collins, Chairman

Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council

