

Council Members

Buddy Collins  
*Chairman*

Elista H. Smith  
*Vice Chairperson*

John Q. Atkinson, Jr.  
Allen W. Floyd  
Oscar Foxworth  
Thomas Shaw  
Milton W. Troy, II

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# 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  
*County Attorney*



April 27, 2017

The Marion County Council held its regular meeting, on Thursday, April 27, 2017, at 7:00 P.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 Oscar Foxworth, Councilman Thomas E. Shaw and Councilman Milton W. Troy, II. Also present were G. Timothy Harper, Administrator; Charles L. McLain, III, County Attorney; and Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council. A representative from the Star & Enterprise was not present and duly notified.

Absent: Chaplain Allen W. Floyd.

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

Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Smith, seconded by Councilman Atkinson, and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the regular meetings held on April 11, 2017.

Councilman John Q. Atkinson Jr., stated for the record that he had a written proxy from Chaplain Allen W. Floyd voting in favor of all matters.

The County Attorney told Council that first reading for the ordinance listed on the agenda as follows was ready: **A.** First Reading of Ordinance #2017-04 An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of a not Exceeding Three Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000) General Obligation Bond of Marion County, South Carolina, To Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds of Said Bond Shall Be Expended, to provide for the Payment of Said Bond, and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

The County Attorney told Council that item A. on the agenda; First Reading of Ordinance #2017-04 An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of a not Exceeding Three Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000) General Obligation Bond of Marion County, South Carolina, To Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds of Said Bond Shall Be Expended, to provide for the Payment of Said Bond, and Other Matters Relating Thereto was ready: The County Attorney introduced the title of the ordinance and stated that this constitutes first reading of Ordinance #2017-04.

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

The County Attorney had nothing to report.

Mrs. Brenda Hatfield appeared before Council to discuss the accessibility of the Marion County Administration Building. Mrs. Hatfield stated that the building is not handicapped accessible and does not meet any of the requirements. She stated that the doors are too heavy to open. Mrs. Hatfield presented to Council a 2017, Polling Place Accessibility Survey. She stated that there are precincts that do not have paved parking lots and does not have handicapped signs on their premises. Vice Chairperson Smith asked if the County or the election commission had any handicapped signs that could be used during election time. Mrs. Hatfield stated that voter registration has handicapped signs that are used during the election. Mr. Harper told Council that he has met with the architect, FBI Construction, and Mr. Alan Ammons in reference to the pressure on the doors. Mr. Harper stated that new hinges have been ordered for the doors. He stated according to the building inspector with the exception of the doors that is propped open the Marion County Administration Building meet all the ADA and inspection requirements. Mrs. Hatfield stated that she is requesting help with the survey. Councilman Troy suggested designating someone from the County to handle the survey to check out the precincts to see whether they meet the present requirements or take in account temporary provisions made on election day. Vice Chairperson Smith suggested including the chair of the election commission or a designee. After a brief discussion by members of Council; Chairman Collins recommended that the chairman of the election commission along with Mr. Harper get together and complete the survey. Mr. Harper stated that he would contact Mrs. Jackie McGill to if there is a deadline.

Mrs. Hatfield also voiced her concerns in reference to her change of address. She stated in 2015 (86) addresses was changed in the County. The Sheriff's Department nor EMS could locate her house. Mrs. Hatfield also mentioned that she is having problems getting her medication delivered. She stated that the drivers are using GPS to locate her house. Mr. Harper told Council that the Sheriff's Deputies and EMS are depending on their GPS. He stated that this matter has been addressed. Chairman Collins asked Ms. Amanda Snipes and Mr. Jeffery Graham to continue working with Mrs. Hatfield to get this problem corrected. Chairman Collins thanked Mrs. Hatfield for her presentation.

The Administrator updated Council on the Capital Sales Tax. Mr. Harper told Council that work has started on the last two projects. The Saffold Building and the Mullins Fire Station.

The Administrator updated Council on Hurricane Matthew. Mr. Harper told Council that the Palmetto Disaster Recovery Group is taking applications regarding the Federal Funding Housing Assistance.

The Administrator told Council that there are a lot of questions in reference to the budget. Mr. Harper stated that he is in the process of meeting with the each department. The LGF is up in the air and the retirement system. The House bill put in \$33 million to offset the retirement fix. Employer contribution rates are increased 2 percent for FY 17-18. The employer contribution rate will then increase 1 percent every year until FY 22-23. Mr. Harper stated that the State House budget plan put in about \$33 million to help offset one of the 2 percent. This will be an increase of \$70,000 for Marion County in retirement. Mr. Harper told Council that a letter has been sent to Representative Atkinson requesting his support.

The Administrator reported to Council that the Roads Bill was passed by the House & Senate. Mr. Harper also reported that Senator Williams said it's in the budget for the County to receive all the money from the ice storm but only 90% from Hurricane Matthew.

The Administrator told Council that GroupeBeneteau will be celebrating 30 years of manufacturing in the USA at the Marion plant on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 PM.

The Administrator told Council that the SCAC's 50th Annual Conference will be held July 30-August 2, 2017, at the Hilton Head Marriott Hotel.

The Administrator mentioned to Council that the County will be submitting four (4) project for requests for proposals in reference to planning and construction. They are as follows: salary pay classification study, the Zion trail, museum and the Senior Center parking lot.

The Administrator passed out bid tabulations in reference to vehicles for the Sheriff's Department and ambulance remounting. Mr. Harper told Council that there were six bids. They are as follows: BB&T Governmental Finance at 2.18%, Anderson Brothers Bank at 4%, Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank at 2.89%, First Citizens Bank no bid, TD Bank no bid and Wells Fargo no bid. It was the recommendation of the Administrator to award the bid to BB&T Governmental Finance. Motion was made by Councilman Foxworth, seconded by Councilman Shaw, and carried unanimously.

Councilman Shaw asked Mr. Harper about the money in reference to the Centenary Fire Department. Mr. Harper stated that the money has been split between each fire department. Councilman Shaw inquired about the Maiden Down Fire Station. Chairman Collins stated that they have purchased the land. Councilman Shaw stated that the County would be liable if a fire were to happen that area. The County Attorney wanted to clarify the statement. He explained the difference between liable and political. He stated that the County would not be held liable.

Councilman Troy asked Mr. Harper if he knew who stole the picnic table out of the park in Nichols. Mr. Harper replied not yet.

Chairman Collins thanked everyone for their calls during his physical challenges. He reported that former Council member Simon Jenkins is in HealthSouth.

Motion was made by Councilman Foxworth, seconded by Vice Chairperson Smith, and carried unanimously, to go into executive session for economic development and a legal matter.

Motion was made by Councilman Troy, seconded by Councilman Foxworth, and carried unanimously, to close executive session and reopen the regular scheduled meeting. Chairman Collins stated that no action was taken during executive session called for economic development and a legal matter.

There being no further business to discuss, motion was made by Councilman Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Shaw, to adjourn the meeting at approximately: 9:15 P.M.

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Buddy Collins, Chairman

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Sabrina Davis, Clerk to Council