

On this the 19th day of January, 2016, the City Council of the City of Marlin, Texas convened in a SPECIAL CALLED MEETING, at 5:30pm, 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 Elizabeth Nelson
Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson
Rose Morin - Absent
Neddie Moore
Billie Jean Scaggs
Norman Erskine
Douglas Porter

STAFF

Ken Knight, City Manager
Sandra Herring, City Secretary

1. Call to Order by Mayor Nelson @ 5:30pm.
2. Roll Call by Sandra Herring.
3. Certify Posting in accordance with State Law by Sandra Herring.
4. Pledge by need this information.
5. Discussion and take appropriate action, if necessary, on accepting a canine unit for the Marlin Police Department and authorizing training of a Police Officer to man the unit.

Chief Eaglin presented to Council a proposal for a K9 Unit.

Councilmember Moore made motion to table and asked Chief to addresses all the concerns in the next proposal.

Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson seconded this motion and the motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Erskine, Councilmember Porter, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Morin.

6. Discussion and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the City Manager's first quarter on the job observations.

Observations after three months on the job:

- The City Council needs to have a serious discussion on Code Enforcement, Building Inspections, and Fire Inspections. The current situation is unsatisfactory because of lack of responsiveness from the building inspector; lack of actionable code enforcement; and the possibility of our losing our certified Fire Inspector. Also, the City needs to address our animal control activities/staffing. Animal Control needs to be something other than just an 8-5 activity. Many animal complaints take place during the off hours and dogs running in packs happen in the very early morning hours.
 - Public Works/Utilities need to be further stream-lined and staffing adjusted to meet the needs of the City to better work on infrastructure priorities.
 - The future of the Fire Department needs to be discussed. It is not, in any practical sense, a Fire Department. It is a paid EMT department. Fire rules and regulations doesn't allow two people to really fight fires. So other than exterior activities; the fire department has to wait for mutual aid to enter the building to fight a fire. Contracting with the volunteer fire department with certain amounts of money being sent to them in exchange for certain minimum service guarantees would be a reasonable action. This would free up monies for other city priorities.
 - Office space and surplus buildings need to be addressed. The 'old' library either needs to be utilized or declared surplus and sold – I would serious look at retrofitted for Police Department use. The storage building needs to be repaired and retrofitted for records retention/storage. The current Police Department space needs to converted to additional office space, a meeting room off the council chamber for executive sessions and other private meetings.
 - The lack of clear direction from the City Council to the City Manager is a problem. Individual Council Members talk directly to staff without informing the City Manager about the conversation which affects scheduling and creates potential conflicts between the manager and department head. As I have said before; when everything is a priority, **nothing** is a priority. The problems this city has cannot be fixed in a day. There are too many problems. Yelling about what happened ten, twelve, twenty, forty years ago won't give me the budget to start fixing the problems at are on the ground right now. Playing a sidewalk engineer and thinking you have all the answers that run counter to what the contract city engineer says would be, most likely, a waste of money. The City does not have the money to spend it on un-engineered guess-work. This Council needs to set priorities and let staff work on the priority list without interference.
 - The huge infrastructure needs of the community need to start being addressed. I would recommend that the Council start the discussion about putting a Five Million dollar (\$5,000,000) Bond Issue on the November ballot with will target projects in all areas of the City. If the voters approve than that will give the City a start on its infrastructure needs. It will NOT fix all of the infrastructure issues that the City faces. It would kick start the process of fixing the issues that you current do not have the funds to accomplish.
7. **Discussion and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the Marlin City Charter including a discussion of appointing a Charter Review Committee.**

City Manager Ken Knight suggested to Council the real need for the Council to review and make changes to the Charter. This should be done every few years and the City's has not been done since 1993. The process should include a committee of 15 with each Councilmember recommending two citizen from their precincts and the Mayor with 3 citizen recommendations at-large.

Councilmember Moore approved the process of the appointment of a Charter review committee.

Councilmember Porter seconded this motion and the motion carried as follows:

AYES: Councilmember Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Erskine, Councilmember Porter, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Morin.

Council determined that the following items can be moved to the next workshop for February 19th.

8. Discussion and take appropriate action, if necessary, on establishing priorities for City staff to focus upon.
 - a. City Administration
 - b. Police Department
 - c. Public Works/Utilities

9. Discussion and take appropriate action, if necessary, on establishing objectives for the next twelve (12) months for the City of Marlin and setting realistic achievable goals to serve as the measures as to whether or not the objectives have been met.

10. Further Called Meeting Agenda Items.
 - a. Progress on City Charter Review
 - b. Priorities, Goals and Objectives.

11. Adjourn.

Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson made motion to adjourn, all in favor said I:

AYES: Councilmember Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Henderson, Councilmember Scaggs, Councilmember Erskine, Councilmember Porter, Mayor Nelson.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Morin.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 8TH DAY OF MARCH, 2016.



Elizabeth Nelson
Elizabeth Nelson, Mayor

Sandra Herring
Sandra Herring, City Secretary