

City of Albion
Council Session Minutes
April 15, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Atchison called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO BE OBSERVED

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vicky Clark (1), Lenn Reid (2); Marcola Lawler (4); Jeanette Spicer (5); Shane Williamson (6) and Mayor Atchison.

ABSENT: Sonya Brown (3) was absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Kipp, Acting City Manager/Chief Public Safety; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Tom Mead, Finance Director; Kent Phillips, Acting Interim Public Services Director and John Tracy, Director Planning, Building & Code Enforcement and Haley Snyder, Acting Assistant City Manager/Deputy Clerk/Treasurer.

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (Includes any proposed additions, deletions or other changes to the agenda)

***Council Member Lawler noted on Agenda item B-Under Items for Individual Discussion should be an Update on the Albion-Marshall Connector not a discussion.*

Lawler moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Agenda with Agenda item B-Under Items for Individual Discussion should be an Update on the Albion-Marshall Connector not a discussion. (6-0, vv)

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Grant Writing-Paulette Porter & Nicole DuPont

Paulette Porter is a grant writing consultant. She provided an update on her background and some of the grants she has written. She has worked on several grant projects for the City of Albion.

Council Member Clark stated this may be an contracting opportunity for a potential grant writer for the City.

Additional comments were received from Council Members Lawler, Reid and Williamson.

B. Proclamation Recognizing Saturday, April 27th as Drug Take-Back Day in Albion

Mayor Atchison read aloud the Proclamation Recognizing Saturday, April 27th as Drug Take-Back Day in Albion and presented to members of the Albion/Homer Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition that were present at the meeting.

Comments were received from Nidia Wolf and Mayor Atchison.

C. Calhoun County Transit Study Survey-Haley Snyder

Haley Snyder, Acting Assistant City Manager/Deputy Clerk/Treasurer stated there is an important initiative happening in our community right now – the Calhoun County Transit Study. The study is being led by the County government with the support of many community partners. The goal of the study is to create a plan for the future of public transportation in Calhoun County.

The County is asking people who live and work in Calhoun County to provide feedback about their transportation needs and priorities by completing a survey. The survey takes 5-10 minutes and can be found at www.calhouncountytransit.com. The survey will be open until late May. Your participation is greatly appreciated and vital in helping the study team understand the transportation needs in our County. Paper copies of the survey will also be available at Albion City Hall, 112 W. Cass Street.

Comments were received from Council Members Lawler, Williamson and Reid and Mayor Atchison.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS-None

VIII. PUBLIC Comments (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to agenda items and to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from Garrett Brown, 1016 S. Superior Street.

IX. CLOSED SESSION-None

X. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV) Items on the Consent Calendar are voted on as one unit)

- A. Approval Regular Session Minutes, April 1, 2019
- B. Assembly Permit for Albion Industries Company Picnic, Victory Park Pavilion, July 20th, 2019
- C. Approval for American Legion to Place Flags on Veterans Graves, May 4th, 2019

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (6-0, vv)

XI. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

- A. Request Approval for Boards & Commissions Appointment
 - Scott Evans, Initial Appointment, Albion Economic Development Corporation, Term to Expire 7-1-2024

Comments were received from Council Members Spicer, Lawler, Clark, Williamson and Reid; Scott Evans; City Attorney Harkness and Amy Deprez, AEDC Director.

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED to Approve Scott Evans, Initial Appointment, Albion Economic Development Corporation, Term to Expire 7-1-2024 as presented. (4-2, rcv) (Clark & Lawler dissenting)

B. Update on Albion-Marshall Connector

Council Member Lawler stated she attended the last Albion-Marshall Connector meeting along with Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety Kipp and provided the following update:

The use of ridership for the Albion-Marshall Connector is:

Medical	48%
Education	23%
Shopping	17%
Work	12%

Medical breakdown:

Oaklawn	64%
Rehab	
Center	34%
Marshall	2%
Medical	

Center
Education Breakdown:
Marshall 81%
Schools
Marshall 19%
Academy

Partners who have committed to funding the Albion-Marshall Connector are:
Battle Creek Community Foundation
Marshall Schools
Oaklawn Hospital
City of Albion
Marshall Academy
Senior Aging

Comments were received from Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety Kipp.

C. Request Approval 2nd Reading & Adoption Ordinance # 2019-03, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 58-166, Possession and Use of Marijuana

Comments were received from Council Member Reid and City Attorney Harkness.

Spicer moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED to Approve 2nd Reading & Adoption Ordinance # 2019-03, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 58-166, Possession and Use of Marijuana as presented. (4-2, rcv) (Clark & Williamson dissenting)

D. Request Approval Resolution # 2019-15, To Approve a Grant Application for the Albion St. Bridge

Comments were received from Council Members Reid, Lawler, Spicer and Williamson; Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety Kipp and Acting Assistant City Manager/Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Snyder.

Williamson moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2019-15, To Approve a Grant Application for the Albion St. Bridge as presented. (6-0, rcv)

E. Request Approval Resolution # 2019-16, To Approve the Economic Development Strategic Plan

Comments were received from Council Member Williamson and Amy Deprez, AEDC Director.

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2019-16, To Approve the Economic Development Strategic Plan as presented. (6-0, vv)

F. Request Approval Resolution # 2019-17, To Approve \$3,000 Increase for Fiscal Year 2018 Audit

Comments were received from Tom Mead, Finance Director.

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2019-17, as presented. (6-0, rcv)

G. Discussion to Change Dates for Council Meetings

Mayor Atchison stated he is interested in discussing changing the Council meetings from the 1st and 3rd Monday to the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. He stated this will promote local events in the City that may limit participation such as the Blues at the Bohm at the Bohm Theatre that are also on Monday evenings. It will also provide additional time if something should come up over the weekend that may need Council approval. He stated this would create a conflict with the Planning Commission meetings which are the 3rd Tuesday of the month. He has reached out to the Planning Commission about potentially changing their meeting dates to either the 1st Monday or 2nd Tuesday of the month. He has not received a response.

Council Member Spicer asked if the Council meetings were set in the Charter.

City Attorney Harkness stated the Charter states the Council will have two meetings per month and does not specify a day and it is also in the Council Rules of Procedure. He stated the dates are set by Council per a resolution. Any changes must be posted within three (3) days of the approval per the Open Meetings Act.

Council Members Spicer and Lawler asked if anyone had approved the Bohm about changing the date for the Blues at the Bohm.

Additional comments were received from Council Members Williamson and Reid.

H. Discussion of Cell Phones at Council Meetings

Mayor Atchison stated he has received both emails and phone calls from residents pertaining to Council use of cell phones during the meeting. He would like to Council to discuss either not bringing cell phones to meetings or not having on them in sight during the meetings.

Council Members Lawler and Clark stated they have family members with medical issues and wants availability of the phones in case of emergencies.

Council Member Williamson feels Council is fine with having the cell phones on the desk during meetings.

I. Discussion/Approval Pursue Reimbursement from GovHR for Breach of Contract

No Motion-This item was not voted on.

J. Discussion/Approval Utilize GovHR Guarantee Clause for Recruitment Services for Other Department Head Level Positions

No Motion-This item was not voted on.

K. Discussion Tree Dump

Kent Phillips, Acting Director of Public Services stated it is no longer an option to take grass clipping and leaves to the tree dump. The State came in and did an inspection and classified the tree dump as a mulch center. There is approximately 10 cubic yards of waste that needs to be removed from the tree dump. Residents are still able to take trees, woody material and limbs to the tree dump. Costs for a mulching center are currently being investigated.

Comments were received from Council Members Clark, Reid, Lawler and Williamson.

L. Discussion City Wide Clean Up Dates

Kent Phillips, Acting Director Public Services stated the City-wide clean-up day will be July 27th, 2019. This will also provide recycling services from the County such as tires and electronics.

Council Member Reid asked if the date could be moved up next year to June.

M. Discussion on Clarification of Legal Representation for City Boards & Commissions

City Attorney Harkness stated that previously he has been hesitant to represent the Boards & Commissions of the City as the City enters into agreements with these various Boards such as AEDC, DDA and ABA. It is unclear who's interest the City Attorney is representing. He is proposing a conflict waiver in which the City and various Boards would sign and the City

Attorney would be representative of both the Boards & Commission and the City. In the event of a lawsuit, The City Attorney would represent the City of Albion. He will draw up the waivers for each of the entities to sign.

N. Request Approval to Send Out RFP for Street Sweeping

Comments were received from Council Members Williamson, Reid and Spicer; Mayor Atchison and Kent Phillips, Acting Director Public Services.

Lawler moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Approve Sending Out RFP for Street Sweeping as presented. (6-0, vv)

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Reid asked to have Pursue Reimbursement from GovHR added to the Study Session agenda for the April 29th meeting.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from Rose Chapman, 412 Lombard St; Ian Therman, AmeriCorps VISTA member; Daniel Farmer, 1101 Wiener Dr; Garrett Brown, 1016 S. Superior St; Betty Branche, 408 Washington St; Devon Park, AmeriCorps VISTA member, Emily Smith, AmeriCorps VISTA member; Lavada Weeks, 917 Luther Dr and Calhoun County Commission Gary Tompkins.

XIV. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Acting City Manager Kipp provided the following City Manager Report:

- He and Mayor Atchison met with MDOT and the Railroad pertaining to railroad safety and increased train speeds through Albion.
- Thanked the Department of Public Services for their clean-up of the spring in Victory Park.

Comments were received from Council Member Reid and Mayor Atchison.

XV. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Clark, Reid, Lawler, Spicer and Williamson; Mayor Atchison; City Attorney Harkness and Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety Kipp.

XVI. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBER (S)

Lawler moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Excuse Council Member Sonya Brown (3). (6-0, vv)

XVII. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vicky Clark (1), Lenn Reid (2), Marcola Lawler (4), Jeanette Spicer (5), Shane Williamson (6) and Mayor Atchison.

ABSENT: Council Member Sonya Brown (3)

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Lawler moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to adjourn the regular session. (6-0, vv)

Mayor Atchison adjourned the Regular Session at 9:05 p.m.

Date

Jill Domingo
City Clerk