



Minutes of the April 7, 2025 City Council Meeting

Unofficial meeting minutes until approved by Council

The regular meeting of the Robins City Council was called to order at 6:00p.m. on Monday, April 7th, 2025 at Robins City Hall, 265 S. 2nd St by Mayor pro tem JD Smith. Mayor Hinz was absent. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with the following members present: Councilor Leigh Cook, Councilor Mike Foley, Councilor Dave Franzman, Councilor Cary Smith and Councilor JD Smith. Also present were City Clerk Lisa Goodin, Deputy City Clerk Rhonda Kortenkamp, City Attorney Holly Corkery, Building Official/Superintendent of Public Works Mike Kortenkamp, Zoning Administrator Vance McKinnon, Police Chief Andy Humphrey, Police Detective Greg McGivern and Fire Chief Keith Feldkamp.

Franzman moved to approve the agenda, Cook seconded and all voted aye.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None

COUNCIL REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY: Foley reported that March was less busy than February for the Fire Department with 20 calls, several being brush fires. FD members also participated in rescue training and documentation training. The Fire Department also added an additional member in March. The Police Department initiated over 145 contacts, including 26 traffic stops and 3 citations and provided 45 house checks.

STREETS: C. Smith reported that City street crews were preparing to re-paint crosswalks and add signage where necessary. She added that improvements to W. Main St. from N. Center Point Rd to Tullymore would begin this summer.

FINANCE: Cook reported that the City was in the 2nd week of its annual audit, which is expected to last a total of 3 weeks. She added that City staff is putting the final touches on the annual budget amendment for FY 2025. The date for the Public Hearing would be set that evening and that the date for the FY 26 Budget Public Hearing is April 21st, and would be held during the regular City Council Meeting.

PARKS: Franzman reported that a request for a memorial bench at South Troy Park would likely be on the 4/21 meeting agenda and recommended standards for such installations to be adopted by the City. Attorney Corkery supported the recommendation. Franzman further reported that parks department crews would be cutting back brush and removing dead trees at South Troy Park for the next few weeks.

PUBLIC WORKS: J. Smith reported that aside from a few drainage problems, both sewer and water systems are operating well.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: No questions presented.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS: John Skarphol, 300 W. Main St. commented that, as a resident of W. Main St., he had not received a letter regarding the upcoming project on W. Main St. Goodin responded that letters were sent only to residences within the project limits.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Kevin Finck, 1605 Maple St., commented that he has noticed decreased water pressure at his residence for the last 3-4 months. He also voiced his support for the establishment of park memorial bench standards.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Franzman moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which contained the Minutes of the March 31st City Council Meetings, the List of Bills Submitted and Resolution 0425-5 Approving Liquor License for Dry Creek Brew. Foley seconded and all voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Resolution No. 0425-1 Approving the Maximum Property Tax Dollars for Fiscal Year**
Cook motioned for approval, Franzman seconded and upon a roll call, all votes were aye.
- B. **Resolution No. 0425-2 Setting Public Hearing to Hear Comments and Concerns Relating to an Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 Municipal Budget** Foley motioned for approval, Cook seconded and upon a roll call, all votes were aye.
- C. **Resolution No. 0425-3 To Provide for a Notice of Hearing on Proposed Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract and Estimate of Cost for The W Main Street Rehab N Center Point Rd to Tullymore Dr, and the Taking of Bids Therefor**
Smith motioned for approval, Cook seconded and upon a roll call, all votes were aye.
- D. **Resolution No. 0425-4 Transfer Funds from the General Fund to the Road Use Fund (Special Revenue Fund)** Cook motioned for approval, C. Smith seconded and upon a roll call, all votes were aye.
- E. **Resolution No. 0425-6 Adopting the Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 – 2030** Foley provided that the City's Public Safety departments had reviewed the plan and approve of the update. Franzman motioned for approval, Foley seconded and, upon a roll call, all votes were aye.
- F. Discussion of payment of Indian Creek Sewer Upgrade (Segment 7 & Segment 11) final invoice and possible Motion. All Council members were in agreement that the City should not be selling a new bond and incurring additional for this project. Cook motioned to remove the final payment for the Indian Creek Sewer Upgrade Segments 7 & 11 from the FY26 budget and to add it to the FY25 Budget Amendment. C. Smith seconded and, upon a roll call, all votes were aye.
- G. Discussion of June 1, 2025 renewal of City Employee Health Insurance coverage and possible Motion. Foley pointed out 7.7% increase in costs over the current plan year and that the City provides a "gold" level of HMO through Wellmark for City employees. He stated his preference to move to a less expensive "silver" option or similar in order to save the City approximately \$12,000 per year in Employee Benefits. C. Smith proposed discussing a reduction of employee health insurance coverage and also reducing the employee "opt-out" stipend amount in an effort to be more fiscally responsible. J. Smith identified the increase in the max out of pocket cost for employees if coverage is reduced and recommended maintaining the same coverage due to the minimal savings to the City represented by a plan change. The matter was tabled for a future meeting.
- H. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2026 Employee Compensation. J. Smith noted that the proposed budget was written to accommodate up to a 5% increase in employee wages. C. Smith stated that it is not realistic to give employee raises and that using taxpayer dollars, the City needs to be frugal. She stated she is not in favor of a 5% raise and that several employees who have not been with the City for a year yet should not be eligible for raises. She acknowledged the importance of employee retention but is also cognizant of the need to be frugal. Smith recommended not more than a 3% raise and the deletion of the employee health stipend. She further recommended consideration of different raises for different job classifications. Foley echoed C. Smith's sentiments, adding that giving raises to new employees is too generous. He recommended 2.5% raises to others. Franzman also agreed, adding that after asking residents to help the City out with the budget, it would not be fair to award 5% raises. J. Smith noted that the City of Marion is giving 3% raises with an

additional 2% based upon job performance evaluations. Corkery advised that the Midwest CPI in February was 3.1% and recommended balancing any wage increase against any change in Employee benefits when considering total employee compensation.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. **FY 2026 Budget:** No update

ADJOURN: Franzman moved to adjourn at 6:48 p.m., Foley seconded and all voted aye.

JD Smith, Mayor pro tem

ATTEST:

Lisa Goodin, City Clerk/Treasurer