

September 8, 2025

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

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REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Marion held in the Council Chambers at 5:30 P.M. Mayor Absher called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The City Clerk called the roll, and the response was as follows:

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER.

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Absher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A Marion resident addressed the Council to suggest they consider making improvements at the corner of College and Market Streets. She stated that visibility is reduced when vehicles are parked along Market Street during Civic Center events. She explained that when a person is driving east on College Street behind the Civic Center, they must pull out into Market Street to see around the parked cars before turning onto Market Street. The Council discussed a few possible options. Mayor Absher said they would investigate this issue further.

Detective Alek Jimenez invited the public to attend the Police vs. Fire softball game at Mt. Dew Park on Saturday, October 11th at 6:00 P.M. He explained this is a fundraiser for the Police Department and Fire Department scholarship funds. He asked the Council to consider donating to help offset expenses for the event. He told them sponsorships are \$500, but any donation will help. He explained that the Police Department awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a senior who is looking to live and work in Marion after they graduate college. Mayor Absher asked Detective Jimenez to estimate the total costs for the event and let him know how much money is needed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN ABSENT.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Absher stated that the Fire Department agenda items are precipitated by the retirement of Captain Mike Boyd. He announced that Captain Boyd's father Harry Boyd passed away yesterday. Harry was a great friend to the city and long-time resident who served on many commissions and boards. He will be sorely missed. Mayor Absher sent condolences to the entire Boyd family on behalf of the city.

Promotions Following Retirement of Captain Mike Boyd

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the following promotions following the retirement of Captain Mike Boyd: Sean Walsh to Captain and Greg Robinson to Lieutenant. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN ABSENT.

Fire Chief Tim Barnett told the Council that Mike Boyd was a joy to work with and a great employee.

Chief Barnett told the Council Captain Walsh was hired in 2003 and is in his twenty-third year of service. His father Terry retired as Captain with thirty years of service. Captain Walsh has been the training officer since 2020 when he was promoted to Lieutenant.

Chief Barnett told the Council Lieutenant Robinson was hired in 2010 and is in his fifteenth year of service. He is an active member of the tech rescue team and dive team. Lieutenant Robinson was instrumental in starting the Safe Program which is presented to all third graders in the Unit 2 School District. He created the eight-to-nine-week program and developed the curriculum.

Hire Hunter Hodge Filling the Vacancy Created by the Retirement of Captain Mike Boyd
Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Merit Board to hire Hunter Hodge for the role of firefighter, filling the vacancy created by the promotions and the retirement of Captain Mike Boyd. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN ABSENT.

Chief Barnett introduced Hunter Hodge to the Council. He told them Mr. Hodge is twenty-three years old and has a passion for fire service. He has a bachelor's degree in Fire Arson and Explosive Investigation from Eastern Kentucky University. He has been an active fire investigator for a consulting group. Chief Barnett said he believes Mr. Hodge will be a great addition to the Fire Department.

The meeting paused briefly for photos.

CEMETERY

Purchase New Exmark Mower for \$15,994.98

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the purchase of a new Exmark mower for \$15,994.98 less a trade-in allowance of \$5,700, a budgeted item. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN ABSENT.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

FY26 TIF Grant Applications Received through September 5, 2025

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve FY26 TIF grant applications received through September 5, 2025. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN ABSENT.

Ordinance 4060 Creating the Vacant Property Redevelopment Program

Mayor Absher told the Council there are currently approximately seventy properties on the vacant property registry and there are developers interested in some of the properties. The hope is that developers will create more affordable and attainable properties. The city is allocating

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\$100,000 from the Economic Incentive Fund for this program. An individual or developer who acquires a property listed on the Vacant Property Registry may apply for incentives to redevelop the property. Approved applicants may receive an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars per property. An initial disbursement of \$5,000 will be made upon Council approval of the application. The applicant will then have twelve months to complete the project. An inspection will be conducted to ensure that the project has been completed as described in the application. The Building and Code Services Department will issue a special occupancy permit. As part of the incentive package, any city liens against the property can be released provided all program requirements are satisfied subject to the Mayor's approval. This program applies to residential and commercial properties. Chief of Staff Cody Moake added that vacant lots are not included in this incentive program. He told the Council this is an annual program, and changes can be made if necessary.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4060 creating the Vacant Property Redevelopment Program. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Patton

Commissioner Patton had no report.

Commissioner Barwick – Public Health & Safety

Commissioner Barwick read the August Police Department report. He reported 2,004 dispatched calls; 1,805 emergency calls; 4,279 non-emergency calls; and 204 ambulance calls.

Commissioner Webb – Streets & Public Improvements

Commissioner Webb reported that the Street Department has been replacing pavement and gutters on Mark Twain Avenue. They have been working on sidewalks on Goodall, Liberty, and Chestnut Streets. They continue hauling brush and have placed riprap on various ditches. They are working on sealing parking lots and recently scrubbed the bricks on the square. He announced the asphalt overlay program has been delayed to a late September start date. He reported five burials for the Cemetery Department in August.

Mayor Absher – Public Affairs

Mayor Absher read the Water Department Report in Commissioner Stoecklin's absence.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Absher thanked everyone involved in the parade and Freedom Sings concert.

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Absher stated he did not have a need for executive session this evening and asked if any of the Commissioners had a need for executive session. Hearing no need for executive session he entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, AND WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN ABSENT
Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

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Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk