

October 13, 2025

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

October 13, 2025

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, WEBB, AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Absher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

STREET DEPARTMENT

Purchase of 2025 Ford F550 Cab and Chassis from Jim Hayes, Inc to Replace a Totaled Ford F550

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2024 Ford F550 cab and chassis for \$64,974 from Jim Hayes, Inc. to replace a totaled Ford F550 dump truck. The dump bed and snowplow will be removed from the totaled truck to use on the new one. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Ordinance 4065 Directing the Sale of a 2008 Ford F150 held by the Water Department

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 4065 directing the sale of surplus property; a 2008 Ford F150 held by the Water Department. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mayor Absher told the Council and audience there are three TIF Redevelopment Agreements to consider.

Ordinance 4066 a Hub TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Aspire Estates, LLC (404 East Jackson Street)

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4066, a Hub TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Aspire Estates, LLC for 404 East Jackson Street.

October 13, 2025

Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained both of these Redevelopment Agreements are for rehabilitation of the properties. These properties will be single family rental properties.

Mayor Absher called for a second. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance 4067, a Hub TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Aspire Estates, LLC (406 East Jackson Street)

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 4067 a Hub TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Aspire Estates, LLC located at 406 East Jackson Street. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

Mayor Absher stated this Redevelopment Agreement is for the same type of property as the previous Redevelopment Agreement. Hearing no discussion he called for the vote.

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

Ordinance 4068 a Hub TIF Redevelopment Agreement with JM Vision, LLC (112 E Jefferson)

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve Ordinance 4068 a Hub TIF Redevelopment Agreement with JM Vision, LLC at 112 East Jefferson.

Chief of Staff Moake told the Council this was a multi-family property at the corner of Jefferson and Madison Streets. JM Vision purchased this property and demolished the building. This is now an empty lot. The developer plans to build an office building on the lot.

Mayor Absher called for a second. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

FY26 TIF Grant Applications Received Through October 9, 2025

Mayor Absher stated there are three TIF grant applications to be considered this evening.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve FY26 TIF grant applications as presented received through October 9, 2025. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher told the Council it is time to consider a proposal for buying natural gas for city facilities.

Chief of Staff Moake explained this proposal is for city facilities and recommended the twenty-four-month option because it saves the most long-term. The contract will start December 1st. Mayor Absher confirmed that the price per therm that has been quoted is just for supply, not for delivery.

October 13, 2025

Natural Gas Supply Contract for City Facilities

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve a natural gas supply contract for City facilities with Constellation for a twenty-four-month contract. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher told the Council that Rachel sent out a notice regarding the electric aggregation program. Chief of Staff Moake explained the current contract with Homefield Energy for the residential municipal electric supply runs through December 2028 and the rate renews every year in June. Every June since the contract inception that rate has increased. Homefield has had a lower summer rate than Ameren. Last week Ameren announced their winter rate that will run through May of 2026, and it is three cents less than the Homefield rate. Their winter rate has decreased from the summer rate approximately \$.04 per kwh. This is \$.03 per kwh lower than the current Homefield rate. The city is encouraging residents to opt out of Homefield to save money. In June 2026, when the Homefield rate renews, anyone who opted out will be re-enrolled. AGE is currently negotiating with Homefield to try to get a rate that is comparable to Ameren's rate. Chief of Staff Moake read Homefield's phone number for anyone wishing to opt out. Mayor Absher stated this is a function of the energy market being volatile and that residents can get a cheaper rate by opting out. Chief of Staff Moake explained the process to opt out.

Renewal Quote for P&I and Workers' Compensation Insurance through Illinois Risk Management Association

Mayor Absher said the renewal quote from RMA is significantly higher than the rate that has been paid in the past. There have been some very large Workers' Compensation claims in two of the last five years that represent seventy percent of the city's claims. The Workers' Compensation portion of the premium is well over fifty percent of the total premium.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve a renewal quote for P&I and Workers' Compensation Insurance through the Illinois Risk Management Association. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Patton

Commissioner Patton had no report.

Commissioner Barwick – Public Health & Safety

Commissioner Barwick read the September Police Department Report. He reported 1,989 dispatched calls; 1,750 emergency calls; 4,078 non-emergency calls; and 178 ambulance calls. He read the September Fire Department report and reported eighty-five incidents. He reported that Battle of the Badges was Saturday night, and the Fire Department won with a score of thirty to eight. He thanked both departments for their fundraising efforts.

Commissioner Stoecklin – Public Property

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the last council meeting. He reported that one and a half semi-trailers were filled at tenth annual electronics recycling event

October 13, 2025

on October 4th. He reminded everyone that the Very Merry Marion Parade will be on Sunday, November 30th.

Commissioner Webb – Streets & Public Improvements

Commissioner Webb reported that the Street Department has replaced a large culvert on Van Buren Street and has crack filled parking lots to prepare them for sealing. They have repaired sidewalks on Buchanan and College Streets and painted handrails downtown. They are treating a fence on Norman Road that the city maintains. They have been repairing streets ahead of the asphalt program which is due to be completed by the end of October. He reported the Cemetery Department had fourteen burials in September.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Absher addressed the council and audience regarding a drug bust at a sober living house in the Morningside subdivision. He received phone calls and emails from residents who were upset by this situation. He said he feels like the city needs to respond and he understands the neighbors object to the home being in the neighborhood. He and City Attorney Wendy Cunningham prepared a guide to help the council and residents to better understand this situation. He read information from this guide into the record. He explained that the Federal Fair Housing Act as amended protects people with disabilities from housing discrimination. Under the law, people in recovery from alcohol or drug addiction or with mental health conditions are considered disabled and they cannot be denied housing because of that status. Per federal law, the city cannot ban or relocate a sober living home simply because neighbors object to it, because it is near a school, or because it is near a subdivision. Federal law preempts the city's zoning authority and any attempt the city would make to try and regulate that type of facility. These protections do not apply to people currently using illegal drugs and residents who create a direct threat to the safety of others or cause major property damage. Case law indicates that cities have lost when they try to regulate based on zoning laws. If drugs are being used or sold at any house, then the police can investigate and act and that is exactly what happened. The Williamson County Sheriff's office did act in this situation. The city can apply nuisance and safety codes and can take action when there is any evidence of a threat, unsafe conditions, or illegal conduct. The operators of that facility must follow the same rules as any other property owner or landlord. The city cannot pass rules that single out sober living homes or people in recovery. The city must treat sober living homes like any other residence while holding them accountable when residents or their operators break the law. The city cannot discriminate but will not ignore proven illegal activity.

Mayor Absher and Chief of Staff Cody Moake announced that trick or treating will be on Friday, October 31st from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Marion resident Carmen Allen Adeoye told the Council there were issues that caused delays for the school buses after Friday's homecoming parade. The street sweeper was running along the parade route after the parade and caused the traffic delays. Ms. Adeoye said this caused her to get her kindergarten students to their bus stops much later than usual. Mayor Absher explained the street sweeper was running to clean up the large amounts of candy left in the streets after the parade. Commissioner Webb suggested that the street sweeper could wait and run an hour after the next parade to fix this problem.

October 13, 2025

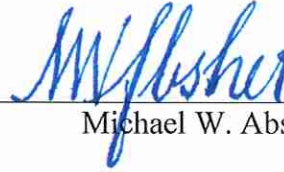
CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

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, WEBB, AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:14 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk