

October 27, 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 5:31 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

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

Zoning Board Approval of a Zoning Change at 1300 and 1302 South Court Street from R-2 General Family Residential to C-1 General Commercial

Mayor Absher stated that the Zoning Board received a request to change the zoning to C-1 General Commercial for a landscape business. No one was present at the meeting to speak about this.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the Zoning Board's approval of a zoning change at 1300 South Court Street and 1302 South Court Street, parcel numbers 06-24-450-008 and 06-24-450-009 from R-2 General Family Residential to C-1 General Commercial, Ordinance 4072. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

Commissioner Barwick asked about the location of these parcels. Chief of Staff Cody Moake stated that these parcels are located south of Sherman Drive just north of Wildcat Road.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Absher called for the vote.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Ordinance 4069 a Residential TIF I Redevelopment Agreement with JBR Development, LLC, Jerrold & Kimberly Ross, and Ross Construction, Inc.

Mayor Absher stated that this TIF I Redevelopment Agreement is for the old GTE building on Boyton Street. Chief of Staff Moake said that Jerry Ross moved his construction operation there a year ago.

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Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 4069 a Residential TIF I Redevelopment Agreement with JBR Development, LLC, Jerrold and Kimberly Ross, and Ross Construction, Inc. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher stated that Ordinance 4070 and Resolution 2025-15 are related. Ordinance 4070 is to engage Jacob & Klein and The Economic Development Group to administer the proposed fifth amendment to the STAR Bond District. This amendment adds parcels to the STAR Bond District. Statutorily, there are two ways that can be requested. The master developer can request the addition of parcels and has requested the old movie theater, the old John Deere building, and parcels to connect these to the STAR Bond District. Parcels can also be added by the city's request. Mayor Absher and Chief of Staff Cody Moake have recommended that the former Camping World building also be included because of the size of the property and development potential.

Mayor Absher explained that per the STAR Bond legislation there is a process the city must follow that starts tonight with engaging counsel. Resolution 2025-15, setting the date for a public hearing, is the first step in the process.

Ordinance 4070 Entering into a Professional Services Agreement with Jacob & Klein and The Economic Development Group for the Fifth Amendment to the Marion STAR Bond District

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4070 entering into a professional services agreement with Jacob & Klein and The Economic Development Group for services rendered to create the Fifth Amendment to the Marion STAR Bond District. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

Commissioner Barwick asked if parcels would need to be removed to add these parcels. Mayor Absher explained that state statute limits the STAR Bond area to five hundred acres maximum. Even with adding these parcels, the area will still have less than five hundred acres.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Absher called for the vote.

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

Resolution 2025-15 Setting the Date for a Public Hearing to Consider the Fifth Amendment to the Marion STAR Bond District

Mayor Absher stated that the next step is to establish the date of the public hearing. He announced that it will be held on Tuesday, November 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Marion City Hall, 350 Tower Square Plaza. The public will have an opportunity to attend. Notification will be mailed to all property owners in the STAR Bond District and to owners of adjacent parcels.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15 setting the date for a public hearing to consider the fifth amendment to the Marion STAR Bond District. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ordinance 4071 Directing the Sale of Surplus Property a 2015 Ford Taurus Sedan for \$4,500

Mayor Absher announced there was a scrivener's error in Ordinance 4071. Enumerated item number one incorrectly states the Marion Water Department is authorized to sell the vehicle. It should say the Marion Fire Department is authorized to sell the vehicle. The city clerk has already corrected the error in the ordinance that will be signed.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve Ordinance 4071, directing the sale of surplus property from the Marion Fire Department, a 2015 Ford Taurus Sedan for \$4,500. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Webb – Streets & Public Improvements

Commissioner Webb reported that the Street Department has pressure washed and sealed the fence on Norman Road. They have been ditching along Norman and Broeking Roads, Carter and Everett Streets and Midway Court to help with drainage issues. They replaced a large culvert on Van Buren Street and have been preparing roads ahead of the paving crew. They have also been replacing signs and striping roads. He reported all is well at the Cemetery Department. He announced the dates and times for the Fall yard waste clean-up and the hours of operation for the yard waste dump at the Street Department on South Van Buren Street.

Commissioner Stoecklin – Public Property

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the last council meeting. He reported that landscaping and concrete work is almost done on Water Department projects. He announced that trick or treating will be on Friday, October 31st from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for children aged twelve and under and the Trail of Treats will be Saturday, November 1st from noon to 2:00 p.m. He asked two trivia questions.

Commissioner Barwick – Public Health & Safety

Commissioner Barwick had no report.

Commissioner Patton

Commissioner Patton had no report.

Mayor Absher – Public Affairs

Mayor Absher announced that he recently traveled to Kanie, Japan as part of the Sister City delegation. He reported that seventeen people went including students from the high school. He said he is grateful for the hospitality shown by the Japanese hosts, and he believes this cultural exchange is an extraordinary benefit for Southern Illinois.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no miscellaneous items to come before council this evening.

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.

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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 6:00 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk