

January 27, 2026

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, which was postponed from Monday, January 26, 2026, due to the severe weather 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 told the Council and audience there was a guest present that recently retired from the Fire Department with thirty years of service. He asked Retired Captain Mike Boyd to lead 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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Presentation of 2025 Officer of the Year and Dispatcher of the Year Awards

Police Chief David Fitts told the Council one of his favorite days of the year is when he gets to recognize two employees who have done outstanding work during the past twelve months.

Dispatcher of the Year

Chief Fitts told the Council this year's recipient is always at work and does a great job. Chief Fitts recognized that several of this person's coworkers were present this evening to show their support. Chief Fitts told the Council that this award was voted on by his peers, and all selected him to receive it. Chief Fitts presented the 2025 Dispatcher of the Year award to Trever Williams. Mr. Williams told the Council he hopes to continue to serve the community for the rest of his career.

Officer of the Year

Chief Fitts told the Council that some years it is easier to choose the officer of the year because what they have done throughout the year can be quantified. He told them this year's recipient has done more than just police work. This person is responsible for the Badges and Backpacks event and helped to organize the Battle of the Badges softball game. Both events helped to raise money for the high school scholarship program. This person submitted sixty-five cases to the State's Attorney's office for prosecution during the year, the highest number of cases ever submitted by the Marion Police Department. Chief Fitts presented the 2025 Officer of the Year to Detective Summar Albright. Ms. Albright told the Council this award was a bucket list item, and it makes her want to do better next year.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING
Resolution 2026-07 a Vacant Property Grant for 718 East Union Street

Mayor Absher stated that Resolution 2026-07 is to approve a vacant property redevelopment agreement. This is the fifth application received for this program.

Mayor Absher made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-07, a Vacant Property Grant for 718 East Union Street. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance 4092 a Residential TIF II Redevelopment Agreement with Crisp Realty Co. & Pepsi MidAmerica Co.

Mayor Absher explained that the TIF attorneys made some changes to Ordinance 4092 today including only listing Crisp Realty Co. in the Redevelopment Agreement. He explained there is also a nuance in this ordinance. He said there was a total fire at this facility and there are special provisions in the TIF Act regarding natural disaster or fire that allow certain other expenses to be included as reimbursable. There is also a provision that any insurance proceeds received must be deducted from the reimbursement. The TIF attorneys made a language change to the ordinance to reflect this.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4092, a Residential TIF II Redevelopment Agreement with Crisp Realty Co. & Pepsi MidAmerica Co. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Vote to Determine Whether the Need for Confidentiality Still Exists with Respect to Closed Session Minutes per 5 ILCS 120/2.06

Mayor Absher explained that the executive session minutes are reviewed biannually to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists.

Mayor Absher made a motion to determine that the need for confidentiality still exists with respect to closed session minutes of the City of Marion City Council per 5 ILCS 120/2.06. Commissioner Patton 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 Webb – Streets & Public Improvements

Commissioner Webb reported that the Street Department has been removing small trees and placing riprap around the detention pond by the old Ideal Lawn building. They have been getting ready for the snow for the last two weeks. He said the Street Department and all other departments that helped did a tremendous job and he appreciated everyone's extra effort.

Commissioner Barwick – Public Health & Safety

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Commissioner Barwick had no report but complimented the Street Department for doing a great job. He also reported that the lights are up at the roundabout on Route 37.

Commissioner Stoecklin – Public Property

Commissioner Stoecklin read the annual Water Department report for 2025. He reported 48 new service taps; 55 watermain breaks; 59 water service leaks repaired; 40 services updated; 15 fire hydrants replaced, repaired, or added to the system; 55 meter pits repaired; 6,209 service calls for the year; 3,697 JULIE locates; and 5 major watermains relocated.

Mayor Absher – Public Affairs

Mayor Absher stated he thinks this is the largest snowstorm the city has seen during his administration. He said there are 212 miles of city streets to maintain and the preparation for an event like this has so many more moving parts than meets the eye. He said there are many city employees who work long hours in cold, dangerous conditions to ensure that the streets are safe. He said they did an outstanding job.

Chief of Staff Cody Moake reported that one of the vendors who visits city buildings weekly commented to him that he had been in several towns today and that the conditions in Marion are better than in the other communities. The vendor told Cody it is very impressive. Cody explained that the only other public space in the city is the square and the parking areas around the square are the city's responsibility. He said the Cemetery Department works tirelessly to clear the area around the square so that the businesses can open. He also reported that Jill at Club 60 sent seniors home with extra meals on Friday so that they would have one or two meals each day if they were stuck in their homes.

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. No one had a need for executive session.

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 5:51 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk