

April 13, 2026

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

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REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Marion was 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 MAYOR ABSHER.

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Absher led the pledge of allegiance.

PROCLAMATION FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Absher read a proclamation declaring April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Andy Stein from the Survivor Empowerment Center was present for the proclamation reading.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Absher opened the floor for public comment.

Marion resident James E. Johnson addressed the Council regarding a book he distributed at the March 9, 2026, council meeting. He warned of a conspiracy theory involving US troop sacrifices.

Marion resident Josh Horner expressed concerns regarding what he perceives as selective code enforcement. He told the Council he has followed Building and Code Services Department employees Tim Stotlar and Aaron Deaton for the last year. He criticized their driving patterns throughout the city. He questioned why an overgrown area behind O'Reilly Auto Parts and an issue with a fence on Van Buren Street has not been addressed. He asked why a \$2,000 lien was placed on his property at 609 East Everett stating the fine was too high for an unregistered property. Mayor Absher stated that the ordinance he was questioning does not allow fines that high.

NEW BUSINESS

Electric Supply Aggregation Contract for Electric Usage of City-owned Facilities

Mayor Absher moved agenda item 10B forward to accommodate AGE representative Rob's schedule.

Rob from AGE presented bids, noting the city's electricity usage had dropped to 8.5 million kWh annually, likely due to solar installations. The council discussed term options and agreed on the 48-month term to lock in the low rate, as energy prices are not expected to decrease.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve an electric supply aggregation contract for electric usage of City-owned facilities with Direct Energy for 48 months at 9.684 cents per kilowatt hour. 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. MOTION CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included approval of the minutes from the March 23, 2026, city council meeting and the reappointment of Tammy Beasley Wright to the Police Pension Board for a two-year term. No items were removed for separate votes.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Announce FY27 Tentative Budget and Budget Hearing

Treasurer Lance Roye announced that the FY27 tentative budget is available for public inspection online and in the City Clerk's office. Commissioner Patton announced that the budget hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 27th at 5:00 PM.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Hire Tyler Absher as a Patrol Officer at the Agreed Upon Rate per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the merit board, Commissioner Barwick, and Chief Fitts to hire Tyler Absher as a patrol officer at the agreed upon rate per the collective bargaining agreement with a start date of April 14, 2026. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

Mayor Absher jokingly noted a very distant family relationship to Tyler Absher.

Chief Fitts introduced Mr. Absher as a former Deputy at the Saline County Sheriff's office. Mr. Absher introduced himself and stated he is a former Saline County Sheriff's Deputy who wished to finish his career in Marion.

Mayor Absher called for the vote.

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

City Clerk Tammy Beasley Wright administered the oath of office to Patrol Officer Tyler Absher. The meeting briefly paused for photos and then resumed.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Purchase 2026 Ford F150 XL for \$41,303.84 from Jim Hayes, Inc

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford F150 XL for \$41,303.84 from Jim Hayes, Inc., a budgeted item. Commissioner Barwick 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. MOTION CARRIED.

Chief of Staff Cody Moake clarified that this truck has been ordered for a while and will be financed. The dealership has an identical truck that will be purchased by the Water Department.

Ordinance 4103 Authorizing a Five-Year Loan with First Southern Bank for the Purchase of a 2026 Ford F150 XL

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 4103 authorizing a five-year 3.95% per annum loan with First Southern Bank not to exceed \$41,304 for the purchase of a 2026 Ford F150 XL for the Street Department. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

WATER DEPARTMENT

Purchase 2026 Ford F150 XL for \$41,303.84 from Jim Hayes, Inc

The Water Department is purchasing an identical truck as the Street Department, but this truck will not be financed.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford F150 XL for \$41,304.84 from Jim Hayes, Inc; a budgeted item. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Engineering Agreement with Horner Shifrin for Infrastructure Improvements along Midway Court

Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained the agreement covers three projects. The projects include sewer relining to accommodate existing and new homes; redirecting water flow from a collapsed storm pipe south of Pyramid Park; and engineering for a road connecting both sides of Midway Court to allow for six new building sites. The estimated construction cost is \$686,985.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve an engineering agreement with Horner Shifrin for infrastructure improvements along Midway Court. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Patton later requested the record be amended to reflect his abstention from this vote.

Engineering Agreement with Horner Shifrin for Various Stormwater Improvements Downtown

Chief of Staff Moake detailed that this agreement bundles several downtown projects for bidding efficiency including fixing a library sump pump issue; routing water south on Van Buren Street

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near the Civic Center and Historical Society; routing water near the post office east to a creek by Washington School; and fixing freezing water on Union Street with a combined estimate of \$512,691 for design and construction engineering.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve an engineering agreement with Horner Shifrin for various stormwater improvements downtown. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance 4104 a Residential TIF II Redevelopment Agreement with T&R Prime Properties, LLC

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4104 a Residential TIF II Redevelopment Agreement with T&R Prime Properties, LLC. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

First Amendment to the Sports Complex Public-Private Partnership Agreement

The Sports Complex Public-Private Partnership Agreement was originally approved in 2024. The amendment updates insurance coverage to ensure the city, county, and developer are properly modeled and on the same page based on recent insurance recommendations. City Attorney Wendy Cunningham has worked to ensure that coverage is appropriate.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the first amendment to the Sports Complex Public-Private Partnership Agreement. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Patton

Commissioner Patton encouraged the Council to carefully review the annual budget for their respective departments.

Commissioner Barwick – Public Health & Safety

Commissioner Barwick read the March Police Department report. He reported 2,083 dispatched calls; 1,616 emergency calls; 3,529 non-emergency calls; and 199 ambulance calls.

Commissioner Webb – Streets & Public Improvements

Commissioner Webb reported that the Street Department has repaired sidewalks, they replaced a tile on North Russell and worked on a storm sewer on Primrose. He reported that the Cemetery had sixteen burials in March.

Commissioner Stoecklin – Public Property

Commissioner Stoecklin was absent.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Chief of Staff Cody Moake announced that the City of Marion has been officially awarded the "Tree City USA" designation by the Arbor Day Foundation for the first time.

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Council members 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, AND WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:27 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk