

April 20, 2026

City of Marion – Special City Council Meeting

April 20, 2026

Minutes of a Special City Council Meeting of the City Council of the City of Marion held in the Council Chambers at 9:00 A.M. Mayor Absher called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M. The City Clerk called the roll, and the response was as follows:

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

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BARWICK

A quorum was present.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Absher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public were present.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Absher announced the purpose of this meeting was to hear an appeal for the denial of a massage establishment license for Healing Spa. He outlined the hearing procedures per the city's code and stated that City Attorney Wendy Cunningham would present the circumstances behind the city's denial of the application. At that time, the owners of the Healing Spa would have an opportunity to present information to the Council.

City Attorney Wendy Cunningham outlined the massage establishment license application process. She told the council that this application had a familiar name, Leon Berg. She detailed information from previous police reports and investigations that was used as a basis for the city's decision to deny the license.

Mr. Leon Berg, a representative of the Healing Spa, asked to address the council. He presented testimony as to why he and his wife should be allowed to obtain a license and open their business. Commissioners Patton and Stoecklin and Mayor Absher asked Mr. Berg questions regarding his testimony.

#### CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

10:00 A.M.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to go into executive session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4) for consideration of evidence and testimony presented in an open hearing. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

April 20, 2026

10:30 A.M.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Special City Council Meeting. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

The Special City Council meeting resumed at 10:31 A.M.

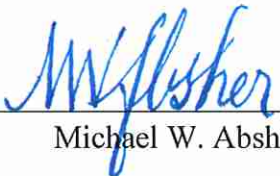
Commissioner Patton made a motion to uphold the denial of a massage establishment license for Healing Spa. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

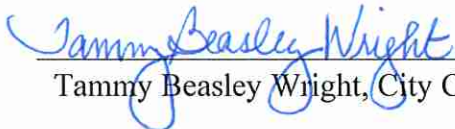
Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 10:33 A.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk