

May 26, 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 STOECKLIN, AND MAYOR ABSHER.

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Absher led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Absher opened the floor for public comment.

Joan Mahaffey presented a proposal for a "Taxpayers Appreciation Week." Ms. Mahaffy stated that while various national holidays recognize specific groups, there is a distinct lack of formal gratitude for the taxpayers who fund the city's infrastructure, public safety, and educational systems. She proposed that simple gestures of appreciation would improve community morale and foster a more positive civic atmosphere.

Doris Ward proposed the "Walk the Block" initiative. She detailed a specific route originating at the Town Square, proceeding North to East Boulevard, East to North Fair Street, South to Main Street, and returning to the Square. Ms. Ward stated that this proposal aligns with the City's ongoing development of the Downtown area and would provide the East side of town with the same "sure-footed" and convenient pedestrian facilities currently enjoyed by the West side.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included approval of the following items:

Approval of the meeting minutes from the May 11, 2026, city council meeting.

Reappointment of Jenna Griffith and Linda Walker to the Marion Carnegie Library Board.

No items were removed from the consent agenda for separate votes.

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. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Promote Officer Steve Sloan to Sergeant

May 26, 2026

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Merit Board, Chief Fitts, and Commissioner Barwick to promote Officer Steve Sloan to Sergeant, filling a vacancy caused by the upcoming retirement of Sergeant William Huddleston. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Police Chief David Fitts told the Council that Sergeant Huddleston's last day is June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Officer Sloan's first official day as Sergeant will be June 4<sup>th</sup>.

In a traditional ceremony, Sergeant Sloan's son pinned his new badge. Sergeant Sloan addressed the Council, noting his history with the department since July 2017. He expressed gratitude for the mentorship provided by Sergeant Huddleston and confirmed that he and K9 Karma would continue their patrol and community demonstration duties.

Mayor Absher expressed gratitude to Sergeant Huddleston on behalf of the City for his years of service to the city and faithfulness to the citizens of Marion.

The meeting paused briefly for photos and then resumed.

#### SEWER DEPARTMENT

##### Replace Roofs on Wastewater Facility Buildings

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve replacing the roofs on the following wastewater facility buildings: lab, middle shop, and grit building per the low bid of \$46,000 from Vaughn's Roofing; a budgeted item. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

#### TREASURER'S OFFICE

##### Police Pension Fund Required Reporting per 40 ILCS 5/3-141

City Treasurer Lance Roye presented the annual report required by statute. He confirmed that \$1,851,159.72 comprising collected sales tax and employee pension contributions have been turned over to the Police Pension Fund for the fiscal year with no funds retained by the City.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Police Pension Fund required reporting per 40 ILCS 5/3-141. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

##### Stormwater Study Proposal from Horner Shifrin from Morningside Drive to Crab Orchard Creek

Mayor Absher noted that several meetings back, the Council discussed the need for a stormwater survey in conjunction with a subdivision adjacent to Lincoln School. The scope of this study is from Morningside Drive to Crab Orchard Creek and will help to identify and mitigate drainage bottlenecks south of Route 13. The cost of the survey is \$89,900.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve a stormwater study proposal from Horner Shifrin from Morningside Drive to Crab Orchard Creek Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

May 26, 2026

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

FY TIF Grant Applications Received Through May 22, 2026

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve FY27 TIF Grant applications received through May 22, 2026. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance 4115 Amending a Redevelopment Agreement with Marion Heights, Inc

Ordinance 4115 amends a redevelopment agreement with Marion Heights, Inc to correct some clerical discrepancies and some housekeeping items that were identified.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4115 amending a redevelopment agreement with Marion Heights, Inc. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Internet Service Contract for City Hall, Boyton Street Community Center, Street Department, Animal Control, and Sewer Department

Protek Fiber was the lowest bidder for a contract to provide internet services for City Hall, Boyton Street Community Center, Street Department, Animal Control, and the Sewer Department. Their quote does not include any installation costs.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve an internet service contract for City Hall, Boyton Street Community Center, Street Department, Animal Control, and the Sewer Department. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance 4116 Regulating Transient Merchants, Itinerant Vendors, Peddlers, Mobile Food Vendors, and Temporary Outdoor Sales

Mayor Absher told the Council he believes this issue needs to be regulated. He stated that it became apparent when roadside merchants were not registered to collect sales tax. The ordinance requires a \$50 annual license fee and a \$50 application fee.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4116 regulating transient merchants, itinerant vendors, peddlers, mobile food vendors, and temporary outdoor sales within the City of Marion. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

The Council discussed specific public safety concerns, including traffic flow, egress/ingress risks, and a requirement that vendors remain at least 25 feet from building entrances to prevent fire code violations. The ordinance aims to "level the playing field" for local brick-and-mortar businesses.

Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained that this ordinance does not apply to farmer's market vendors if they are part of an organized event or to vendors set up within a City approved event.

May 26, 2026

Mayor Absher voiced concerns about where vendors are setting up in relation to traffic flow and how that affects public safety. He also recommended that in the future Treasurer Lance Roye check renewing vendors to be sure they have been remitting sales tax.

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. MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 2012-17 Authorizing the Sale of Real Property Commonly Known as 1104 Midway Court

Mayor Absher stated that this is the first of two homes built under an intergovernmental agreement with Marion Unit #2 School District. This home at 1104 Midway Court was built by the building trades students and is set for closing this Thursday for \$189,000. This resolution authorizes Mayor Absher to sign the closing documents.

Mayor Absher made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-17 authorizing the sale of real property commonly known as 1104 Midway Court. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Webb – Streets & Public Improvements

Commissioner Webb reported that the Street Department assisted the Building and Code Services Department with the cleanup of nine properties. They repaired sidewalks on Sherry, Bainbridge, Second, Parish, and South Monroe Streets. They repaired a storm sewer on Parrish Street as well. They have been mowing right-of-way, ditching on Fair and Clark Streets, and repairing curb and gutters on Dulle and Dew Drop Streets. Several Street Department employees helped to prepare the cemeteries for Memorial Day.

Commissioner Patton

Commissioner Patton had no report.

Commissioner Stoecklin – Public Property

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the last council meeting including the repair of five-meter pits, four water leaks, two fire hydrants, three new water taps, and one service update. He also provided the Council with Memorial Day historical trivia.

Commissioner Barwick – Public Health & Safety

Commissioner Barwick had no report.

Mayor Absher – Public Affairs

Mayor Absher recognized Ray Hancock for his forty-one years of dedicated service to the VFW Honor Guard. He announced that Retired Federal Judge Pat Murphy would succeed Mr. Hancock in organizing the Honor Guard's events. Mayor Absher issued a public call for volunteers, noting that neither veteran status nor VFW membership is required to serve.

MISCELLANEOUS

May 26, 2026

Chief of Staff Cody Moake reported that eight volunteers from Hospice of Southern Illinois cleaned veterans' headstones and footstones prior to Memorial Day.

Mayor Absher recognized City IT Director Terance Henry for his work utilizing technology to locate and identify veteran graves for Memorial Day.

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.

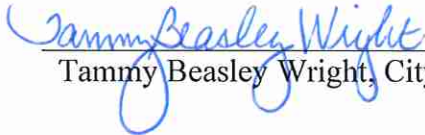
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB, AND STOECKLIN, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 P.M.



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Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk