

June 22, 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

Ed Davis led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Ed Davis, President of Veterans on Parade provided an update on the 22nd annual Veterans on Parade scheduled for Saturday, September 12th at 10:00 A.M. He introduced Danny Wright as the Vice President of the organization and thanked several local sponsors for supporting the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jacob Jansen of Snedeker Risk Management/Hope Trust invited the Council to the Hope Trust annual conference in St. Charles, MO in July. He noted the mid-year healthcare financial report for the city will be available in July.

Mayor Absher opened the floor for public comment. No members of the public came forward to address the council.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included approval of the following items:

Approval of the meeting minutes from the June 8, 2026, city council meeting.

The appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Bailey-Smith to the Marion Carnegie Library Board.

There were no requests to remove any items for separate discussion or vote.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Hire Justin Goodman 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 Justin Goodman as a patrol officer at the agreed

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upon rate per the collective bargaining agreement with a start date of June 29, 2026.
Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Police Chief David Fitts introduced Officer Goodman. He explained that Officer Goodman was previously employed by the Police Department, left for personal reasons, and took a position with the Union County Sheriff's Office. Officer Goodman thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve Marion again.

City Clerk Tammy Beasley Wright administered the oath of office to Officer Goodman. The meeting paused briefly for photos.

Consolidation of the Current Axon Agreement to Extend Through Fiscal Year 2036 at a Fixed Cost

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the consolidation of the current Axon agreement to extend through fiscal year 2036 at a fixed cost. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained that this agreement is a ten-year agreement. Currently the body cameras, in-car cameras, and tasers are on three different contract cycles. Axon is trying to get all customers on ten-year agreements. The body cameras are required by statute and have mitigated complaints. Technology in this area is rapidly changing, and Axon has 80 percent of the market share. Chief of Staff Moake explained that this contract represents the largest savings of the other options that were offered.

Mayor Absher noted that the contract includes the fixed cost plus a four percent increase for inflation. The shorter-term contracts have higher inflation rates. This contract also includes software tools that will help with FOIA requests for an additional \$52,000.

Police Chief David Fitts added that this contract includes unlimited data storage which allows the Police Department to set record retention dates longer if necessary and use clearer video resolution. The contract includes an AI report writing system which creates a chronological report based on body camera footage. Axon analytics indicate that this tool helps to shorten report writing times for officers. The body cameras include GPS locators that can track an officer and will be replaced every two years. In car cameras will be replaced every five years. The contract also includes upgrading tasers. The current contract is for equipment for 45 officers.

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.

Payment to ID Networks for Additional Mobile CAD licenses and RMS Reporting Licenses

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve payment to ID Networks for additional Mobile CAD licenses and RMS reporting licenses in the amount of \$21,500. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

Mayor Absher explained this one-time payment catches the city up on necessary licenses for Police Department users.

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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.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Notice of Award to Skuta Construction for \$925,957 for the Hub TIF Sewer Relining Project
Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the notice of award to Skuta Construction for \$925,957 for the Hub TIF Sewer Relining Project. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained that several sanitary sewers need to be relined in a large area. Multiple bids were received and the low bid from Skuta Construction was below the engineer's estimate. This project covers almost one mile of sanitary sewer lines. Chief of Staff Moake recommended some financing options to the Council since the Hub TIF does not have enough funds to pay for the project. Mayor Absher recommended the city loan money from reserves to the TIF district to avoid paying bank interest. Separate action will be taken for financing the project at a future meeting.

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.

MARION CULTURAL & CIVIC CENTER

Weapons Detection System from CEIA

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the purchase of a weapons detection system from CEIA, a budgeted item. Mayor Absher seconded the motion.

Commissioner Stoecklin told the Council that some of the artists appearing at the Civic Center now are requiring security. This system is mobile and can be moved to other buildings if needed. It detects weapons better and is less intrusive.

Mayor Absher added that several artists have riders in their contracts that require this. Safety Director Brian Fisher and Civic Center Director Josh Benson have also recommended a part-time employee to plan security for these events.

This quote is for three systems and training at a cost of \$78,725.

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

Resolution 2016-19 Approving a Vacant Property Redevelopment Application for 703 South Madison Street

Mayor Absher made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-19 approving a Vacant Property Redevelopment Application for 703 South Madison Street. 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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FY27 TIF Grant Applications Received Through June 18, 2026

There were 17 TIF grant applications to be considered for approval.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve FY27 TIF grant applications received through June 18, 2026. 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 been working at the Refuge to help lower a levy to allow water to drain more quickly from the Westernaire area. They are working on sidewalks on Second Street and preparing for the asphalt overlay. He had no report for the Cemetery Department.

Commissioner Patton

Commissioner Patton had no report but offered to assist with researching loan options for the sewer relining project.

Commissioner Stoecklin – Public Property

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the last council meeting. He reported five meter pits replaced; three water leaks repaired; one service updated; four new water taps; and four fire hydrants repaired. He asked two trivia questions. He invited everyone to the Knights of Columbus on July 3rd and 4th for lasers and fireworks.

Commissioner Barwick – Public Health & Safety

Commissioner Barwick had no report.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no miscellaneous items to come before the Council.

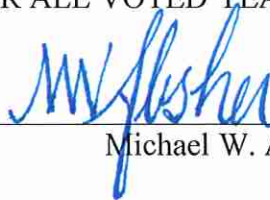
CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Council members had a need for executive session.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

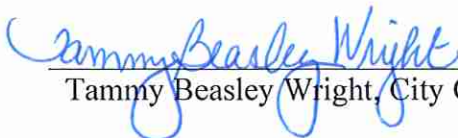
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB, AND STOECKLIN, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk