

July 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 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. No members of the public came forward to address the council.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included approval of the following items:

Invoices from Euna Solutions, Inc., Skuta Construction, Inc., IEPA, and Governmental Consulting Solutions, Inc.

Approval of the meeting minutes from the June 22, 2026, city council meeting.

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

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

Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

BUILDING AND CODE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Ordinance 4121 Updating the International Building, Fire, and Property Maintenance Codes from 2018 to 2021 and Adopting the 2021 International Residential Code

Mayor Absher stated that current codes are eight years old and need updating.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4121 updating the International Building, Fire, and Property Maintenance Codes from 2018 to 2021 and adopting the 2021 International Residential Code. Commissioner Patton 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

FY27 TIF Grant Applications Received through July 10, 2026

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the FY27 TIF grant applications received through July 10, 2026. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Engineering Agreement with Horner Shifrin for the Washington School Safe Routes to Schools Project

Mayor Absher explained that the city could pay for the agreement with MFT funds, but that using project funds will expedite the project by approximately six months.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve an engineering agreement with Horner Shifrin for the Washington School Safe Routes to Schools project. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

STREET DEPARTMENT

Contract for Resurfacing Various Streets with E.T. Simonds

Commissioner Webb stated that the city only received one bid for the asphalt overlay project. The bid was approximately \$200,000 over the engineer's estimate due to rising oil prices and \$40,000 over the amount budgeted for the project.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve a contract with low bidder E.T. Simonds for resurfacing various streets for \$1,675,194.94. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

HUB RECREATION CENTER

Bid from Greathouse Painting for Various Aquatics Improvements

Mayor Absher explained that the bid from Greathouse Painting is for some needed maintenance at the Hub for pool basin painting.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the low bid from Greathouse Painting for various aquatics improvements for \$57,300, 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.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Purchase of 1,200 New Zenner Water Meters

Commissioner Stoecklin explained that these meters will replace meters approximately ten years old to maintain warranty coverage.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Phase 2 of the Water Meter Replacement Project by purchasing 1,200 new Zenner water meters for \$133,200; 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.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Proposal for Management of the CDBG Housing Grant

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Mayor Absher stated that the city is applying for a \$700,000 grant to assist homeowners with repairs. The city will contribute \$20,000 to increase the chances of securing the grant.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the proposal from PSC Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors for the management of a CDBG Housing Grant. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

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

Mayor Absher stated that it is time to vote on closed session meeting minutes. There has been only one set since the last time they voted. City Attorney Wendy Cunningham recommended keeping the minutes closed.

Mayor Absher made a motion to determine that confidentiality still exists with respect to closed session minutes of the City of Marion City Council per 5 ILCS 120/2.06 that require confidential treatment. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance 4122 Renewing the Project Labor Agreement with Egyptian Building & Construction Trades Council

Mayor Absher explained it is time to renew the standard five-year agreement with the Egyptian Building & Construction Trades Council.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4122 renewing the Project Labor Agreement between the Egyptian Building & Construction Trades Council and the City of Marion. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Roof Repair at Marion Cultural and Civic Center from Vaughn's Roofing

Mayor Absher explained that a leak was discovered in the membrane roof. While not a budgeted item, it is a critical repair that is expected to extend the roof's life by several years, avoiding a full replacement.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve a quote for roof repair at the Marion Cultural and Civic Center from Vaughn's Roofing for \$15,989. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Barwick – Public Health & Safety

Commissioner Barwick read the June Police Department report. He reported 2,007 dispatched calls; 1,747 emergency calls; 3,674 non-emergency calls; and 178 ambulance calls.

Commissioner Patton

Commissioner Patton had no report.

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Commissioner Stoecklin – Public Property

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the last council meeting. He reported three meter pits repaired or replaced; four water leaks repaired; one service updated; three new water taps; seven fire hydrants repaired; and one fire hydrant was replaced. He asked two trivia questions and thanked everyone who attended all the July 4th activities.

Commissioner Webb – Streets & Public Improvements

Commissioner Webb reported that the Street Department has been working on sidewalks, mowing, street sweeping, and cleaning tiles and ditches. They are working on the water crossing at the Refuge and preparing for the asphalt overlay. He reported twelve burials for the Cemetery Department in June.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marion resident Larry Lee, II addressed the council regarding an issue involving his dogs where he received a city ordinance ticket. Mayor Absher asked Police Chief Fitts to review the dispatch logs regarding the incident.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no miscellaneous items to come before the Council.

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

5:53 P.M.

Mayor Absher made a motion to go into executive session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) for acquisition of real property. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

6:38 P.M.

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

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

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 6:39 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk