

July 27, 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

Tom Harness led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Absher opened the floor for public comment.

Stephanie Robinson, CEO of Man-Tra-Con introduced herself and highlighted the organization's ongoing commitment to workforce development and partnership with the city.

Tom Harness, Williamson County Veterans Assistance Commission Superintendent introduced the newly formed VAC of Williamson County. He explained the Commission's role in providing financial assistance and resources to veterans, specifically addressing issues like homelessness, mental health, and transportation.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included approval of the following items:

Invoices from Metroclick and the Illinois Heartland Library System.

The meeting minutes from the July 13, 2026, city council meeting.

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 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

VirTra Invoice for a Training Simulator to be Paid with Grant Funds from the Julia Harrison Bruce Foundation

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve payment of VirTra invoice 237535 for \$270,047.74 for a training simulator. The invoice is being paid with grant funds. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

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Police Chief David Fitts told the Council the simulator has been installed and initial training has begun.

Simtek Modular Invoice for Training House to be Paid with Grant Funds from the Julia Harrison Bruce Foundation

Commissioner Barwick approved payment of invoice 1153 for \$36,840 for a Simtek Modular Training House. The invoice is being paid with grant funds received from the Julia Harrison Bruce Foundation. 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 they have not received the modular training house yet. It will take three months to complete it. The modular walls will allow officers to practice clearing buildings and homes in various configurations.

CEMETERY

Open Sealed Bids for Purchase of 72-Inch Exmark Mower

Commissioner Webb reported the Cemetery Department received two sealed bids for a 72-inch Exmark mower. Two bids were opened: FAS & Service LLC for \$16,914.00 and Wild Dave's for \$15,919.00.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to accept the bid from Wild Dave's in Energy, Illinois for \$15,919. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

STREET DEPARTMENT

Fecon Head Mulching Attachment from Bobcat of Marion

Commissioner Webb told the Council they approved the purchase of an attachment for an excavator at a previous council meeting. The unit that was approved had compatibility issues and was too large for the excavator, but this unit will work. He also told them this is a budgeted item.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the purchase of a Fecon head from Bobcat of Marion for \$38,110.10. Commissioner Stoecklin 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 24, 2026

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve the FY27 TIF Grant Applications received through July 24, 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 4125 an Economic Incentive Agreement with JM Vision, LLC

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4125, an economic incentive agreement with JM Vision, LLC.

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He explained that building owner Jeff Mayer has a new business locating in the former Granny Puckett's space and an unnamed restaurant/bar business for the basement space. This ordinance updates the original agreement for a different incentive amount.

Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

Chief of Staff Cody Moake stated that the TIF attorney added a personal guarantee from Mr. Mayer to the agreement.

Ordinance 4126 Authorizing the Sale of Real Property to Affordable Housing of Southern Illinois

Mayor Absher explained that this ordinance authorizes the sale of thirty-seven individual parcels of property to the same developer of the properties behind Ike Honda. The closing is set for August 12th, and site preparation will begin immediately. This is a federally subsidized program to create affordable housing units that are income based on a sliding scale. These units are affordable due to federal participation with pass-through funds from HUD. All units are rental units for twenty-five years due to federal participation. This development will include twenty-seven single-family homes.

Chief of Staff Cody Moake stated the developer is hoping the project will be completed in twelve months.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4126 authorizing the sale of real property to Affordable Housing of Southern Illinois, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Ordinance 4127 Amending a Redevelopment Agreement with Easy Coin Laundry, LLC

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4127 amending a redevelopment agreement with Easy Coin Laundry, LLC. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained that Easy Coin Laundry is located at the end of a city water line and there are significant water pressure issues in that area since it has opened. The city is paying a contractor directly to increase the size of the water main from two inches to six inches from Lexington Street south along Court Street. The housing authority line that services Sherman Drive and Jodi Lane will connect to the new water main. The total project cost is \$98,000.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher explained that Ordinances 4123 and 4124 are needed policies for artificial intelligence and social media.

Ordinance 4123 an Administrative Policy Regarding Artificial Intelligence

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4123 an administrative policy regarding artificial intelligence. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

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Ordinance 4124 a Policy Concerning Social Media Terms and Conditions

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 4124, a policy concerning social media terms and conditions. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Barwick – Public Health & Safety

Commissioner Barwick read the June Fire Department report. He reported eighty-two total calls.

Commissioner Patton

Commissioner Patton had no report.

Commissioner Stoecklin – Public Property

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the last council meeting. He reported three meter pits repaired or replaced; five water leaks repaired; three services updated; four new water taps; three fire hydrants repaired; and one fire hydrant was replaced. He reported that the Water Department is still working on the Redbud/Dogwood watermain replacement project. He asked two trivia questions.

Commissioner Webb – Streets & Public Improvements

Commissioner Webb reported that the Street Department has been working on sidewalks on Monroe and Goodall Streets. They have been ditching along Scottsboro Road and other parts of town and replacing signs. They are preparing for the asphalt overlay which is expected to start in late August. He reported that the Cemetery Department has been busy mowing.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chief of Staff Cody Moake reminded everyone the Colt World Series starts this week with games beginning on Friday. He reported several activities coming up including Rock the Plaza on August 4th, Shine and Show on August 6th, and Glacier's End Pickle Fest on August 8th.

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.

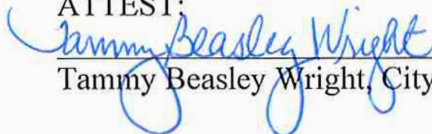
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB, AND STOECKLIN, AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:14 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy Beasley Wright, City Clerk