

# MARION COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA

PRESIDENT – NICK MCKINLEY VICE PRESIDENT – GARY FORDYCE

Regular Meeting – Marion City Hall Council Chambers

Date: September 2, 2025

Time: 7:00 P.M.



## CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER: Father Michael Block, St. Paul Parish

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Andy Whitton

## ROLL CALL

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: USave Auto Rental

CITY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Caleb Day, Marion Animal Care & Control

## CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 19, 2025
- B. CONSIDERATION OF PRE-APPROVED CLAIMS
- C. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

### GENERAL ORDINANCE 18-2025- City of Marlon Redevelopment Authority 1st reading

An ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Marlon, Indiana establishing the City of Marlon Redevelopment Authority. Speaking Barnes & Thornburg LLP

**Executive Summary:** Indiana Code section 36-7-14.5 authorizes the Common Council of the City of Marlon, Indiana, to create a Redevelopment Authority in order to pursue the public purposes of the Redevelopment Authority Act, including, without limitation, financing local public improvements for lease to the City of Marlon Redevelopment Commission, and to issue bonds payable from lease rentals.

### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION 14-2025 2026 Budget 1st Reading

We are pleased to share the 2026 Budget for the City of Marlon. This budget reflects our continued commitment to the city's mission and long-term goals. Speaking the Honorable Mayor, Ronald Morrell Jr.

**Executive Summary:** Our administrations top priority remains providing excellent community services and showing appreciation for our employees' hard work and dedication. We are pleased to present a balanced budget for 2026 and anticipate maintaining our cash reserve balance.

**Grant County Public Safety Operations Communications Board:** Marion Common Council appointment  
Marion Common Council has a vacant position on the Grant County Public Safety Operations

Communications Board. Speaking: Council President Nick McKinley

**Executive summary:** The Council has an opening to appointment a person to the Central Dispatch Advisory Board due to the resignation of its current appointee. This board position has no compensation and is a four-year appointment. Applicants must live in the city limits. Resumes can be dropped off at the City Clerk's Office or emailed to [councilpresident@cityofmarion.in.gov](mailto:councilpresident@cityofmarion.in.gov). Deadline is September 26th at 4pm. The appointee will be selected at the Council meeting on October 7th.

**CFI Form**

Mason Village, Inc.- Speaking: Council President Nick McKinley

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Amplify Marion October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

Citywide Cleanup - District 6 - Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

REGULAR MEETING – MARION COMMON COUNCIL – September 02, 2025 – 7:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana met in a regular session on TUESDAY, the 2nd day of September 2025, at the hour of 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

On the call of the roll the members were shown to be absent or present as follows:

Present: Cain, Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, and McKinley

Absent:

Prayer: Father Michael Block, St. Paul Parish

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Andy Whitton

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – Usave Auto Rental

- Nick McKinley introduced USave Auto Rental, a locally owned rental car company in Marion, highlighting its services including car rentals and U-Haul rentals.
- The company has been in business for almost 20 years and is owned by Wayne, Algene, Adam Carly, JD Westgate, and Kim Dunn.
- Wayne Westgate explains the motivation behind starting the business with his son and the transition from full-time jobs to running the business.
- The company offers competitive rates, reliable transportation, and additional services like dropping cars off at body shops.

CITY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT-Caleb Day, Animal Care and Control

- Nick McKinley introduces Caleb Day from Animal Care Control, highlighting his professionalism and positive attitude.
- Caleb Day has been with the city for four years and previously worked in the restaurant industry.
- Brittany Shrout, Caleb's manager, praises his dedication and outstanding character, noting multiple compliments from the community.
- Caleb enjoys working with animals and appreciates the support from the community.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2025, minutes for August 19, 2025, preapproved claims and claims for SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Nick McKinley moves to approve the consent agenda, which includes the approval of minutes, pre-approved claims, and claims.

Motion to approve consent agenda- Cain, second Cowgill. Aye: Cain, Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 18-2025-City of Marion Redevelopment Authority 1<sup>st</sup> reading

An ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana establishing the City of Marion Redevelopment Authority.

- Dustin Meeks from Barnes and Thornburg LLP introduces the ordinance establishing the City of Marion Redevelopment Authority.
- The ordinance allows the city to issue bonds payable from lease rentals, providing additional financing capacity beyond the constitutional debt limit.

- The Redevelopment Authority is a three-member body that operates under the oversight of the city council.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 18-2025 to second reading and public hearing-Cain; second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

#### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION 14-2025- 2026 Budget 1<sup>st</sup> reading

##### City of Marion 2026 Budget

- Mayor Ronald Morrell presents the 2026 budget, highlighting a balanced budget and a 45% cash reserve.
- The total general fund budget is \$24.7 million, with \$8.3 million for police and \$7.5 million for fire.
- The budget reflects the city's commitment to community service and maintaining a strong financial position.

Motion to pass Additional Appropriation 14-2025 to second reading and public hearing -Cowgill, second Cain. Aye: Cain, Marshall, Fordyce Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

#### GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

##### APPOINTMENT

Marion Common Council has a vacant position on the Grant County Public Safety Operations Board.

- Nick McKinley announces a vacant position on the Grant County Public Safety Operations Communications Board due to a resignation.
- The position is a four-year appointment, and applicants must live in the city of Marion.
- Nick McKinley requests that future appointments be for four years instead of lifetime appointments.
- The council agrees to the four-year appointment term.

##### CF1 FORM-Mason Village

- Nick McKinley explains this form was sent in late.
- Chuck Binkard has reviewed the CF1 form and found no issues.
- This is the last year for this abatement.

Motion to approve the CF 1 Form for Mason Village- Cain, second Cline. Aye: Cain, Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

##### REELEMENT UPDATE

- Mark Jensen and Tom Sauve from ReElement provided an update on their operations in the former RCA building.
- The company focuses on producing defense materials, including germanium, yttrium, and rare earth magnets, for major defense contractors.
- RE Element is receiving federal funding and private investments to expand their operations in Marion.
- The company plans to hire locally and train employees, emphasizing the importance of private capital and opportunity zones for economic growth.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Amplify Marion October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Last city wide clean up of the year is in District 6 on September 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Council President Nick McKinley will not attend the second meeting in October. Vice President Gary Fordyce will preside over the meeting.

Motion to adjourn- Cowgill, second Cain. Aye: Cain, Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

  
Nick McKinley-President