

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY
SEPTEMBER 02, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

The Board of Public Works and Safety met on Tuesday, September 02, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers on the first floor of City Hall, located at 301 S. Branson St., Marion, IN 46952.

1. ROLL CALL

Members present: Alex Huskey, Fred Cohlhepp, Vickie Nevels, and Virginia Drake

Members absent: Mario Speed

Also present: MPD I.T. Manager Cliff Sessoms, Chris Greisl with Barnes and Thornburg, City Attorney Michael Hotz, Building Commissioner Jerry Foustnight, Deputy Chief Mark Stefanatos, Detective Jacob Polsley, and record keeper Whitney Gilbert

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Approval of August 18, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Alex Huskey entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 18, 2025.

Motion: Fred Cohlhepp Seconded: Vickie Nevels Motion Carried

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT – CRIME SCENE BUS TOUR

This item was moved to the end of the agenda. Detective Jacob Polsley then escorted the Board outside for a guided tour of the Marion Police Department's state-of-the-art crime scene bus. During the tour, Det. Polsley showcased the specialized equipment and forensic supplies housed on the bus, explaining how each tool supports the department's investigative work. He emphasized the bus's vital role in improving scene management, evidence collection, and overall efficiency—allowing officers to work quickly and accurately while on site. Det. Polsley highlighted several instances where the bus's capabilities directly contributed to timely investigations and successful outcomes. No action item.

4. POLICE DEPARTMENT – HANDHELD RADIO SALE

M.P.D. I.T. Manager Cliff Sessoms reported on two bids received for the handheld radios and supporting equipment, offered as a single package, and recommended awarding the contract to Sunny Communications, LLC, for a total of \$14,900.00.

- Sunny Communications, LLC: \$14,900.00
- First Due Communications: \$9,822.00

Alex Huskey entertained a motion to accept the recommendation.

Motion: Vickie Nevels Seconded: Fred Cohlhepp Motion Carried

5. CITY OF MARION – BALLARD FIELD SCOPING AGREEMENT

Chris Greisl addressed the Board and explained that the Scoping Agreement with Card Associates Athletic Facilities, LLC authorizes design and site work necessary to advance the Ballard Field Project toward a Build-Operate-Transfer Agreement under Indiana Code § 5-23. The Agreement caps costs at \$200,000, grants temporary site access, and provides that costs will be rolled into the project financing if Card Associates is selected.

Alex Huskey entertained a motion to approve Resolution No. 8-2025 authorizing the Mayor to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

Motion: Fred Cohlhepp Seconded: Vickie Nevels Motion Carried

6. CITY OF MARION – NOTICE OF ACQUISITION – EASEMENT AGREEMENT

City Attorney Michael Hotz addressed the Board and explained that the Notice of Acquisition and Easement Agreement is a follow-up to the Agreement for Easement previously approved on June 2, 2025. The documents relate to the Family Express property located at S.R. 9 (Baldwin Avenue) and S.R. 18 (Fourth Street), Marion, Indiana, and include multiple parcels identified as Tax ID Nos. 27-06-01-401-128.000-008, 27-06-01-401-129.000-008, 27-06-01-401-130.000-008, 27-06-01-401-131.000-008, 27-06-01-401-092.000-008, 27-06-01-401-093.000-008, 27-06-01-401-094.000-008, 27-06-01-401-096.000-008, 27-06-01-401-097.000-008, 27-06-01-401-098.000-008, 27-06-01-401-132.000-008, and 27-06-01-401-133.000-008. He explained that the agreement grants a perpetual, non-exclusive easement over the public alley separating these parcels, allowing vehicular/pedestrian access, utility installation and maintenance, and related site development activities, consistent with the terms of the June 2 agreement.

Alex Huskey entertained a motion to approve the Easement Agreement.

Motion: Vickie Nevels Seconded: Fred Cohlhepp Motion Carried

7. BUILDING DEPARTMENT – UNSAFE STRUCTURE UPDATE

Building Commissioner Jerry Foustnight addressed the Board and provided an update on the status of the Unsafe Structure grading scale. He explained that the Building Department is prioritizing properties on its list while continuing to perform demolitions on unsafe structures previously approved by the Board. In addition, they are conducting owner-requested demolitions, which generate more certain revenue than demolitions initiated through Board orders. Mr. Foustnight also highlighted the City’s collaboration with the GRCC construction program, noting that the City recently demolished an unsafe residential structure on a property designated for a student-led construction project. He further reported that he is in the process of interviewing applicants to fill his assistant’s position, as the previous assistant accepted another role within the City. This staffing transition has caused a brief pause in bringing new properties before the Board for consideration. Jerry Foustnight welcomed any input regarding known unsafe structures from the board members.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

9. ADJOURNMENT

Alex Huskey entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Vickie Nevels Seconded: Virginia Drake Motion Carried