

MARION COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA

PRESIDENT – NICK MCKINLEY VICE PRESIDENT – GARY FORDYCE

Regular Meeting – Marion City Hall Council Chambers

Date: September 16, 2025

Time: 7:00 P.M.



CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER: Councilman David Cain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilwoman Erika Devine

ROLL CALL

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: King Gyros - Jimmy Nikolulis

CITY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Rose Cadena- Parks Office Manager/Park Director

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 02, 2025
- B. CONSIDERATION OF PRE-APPROVED CLAIMS
- C. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GENERAL ORDINANCE 18-2025- City of Marion Redevelopment Authority 2nd reading and public hearing

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

Executive Summary: Indiana Code section 36-7-14.5 authorizes the Common Council of the City of Marion, 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 Marion Redevelopment Commission, and to issue bonds payable from lease rentals.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION 14-2025 2026 Budget 2nd reading and public hearing

We are pleased to share the 2026 Budget for the City of Marion. 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 administration's 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. Deadline is September 26th at 4pm. The appointee will be selected at the Council meeting on October 7th.

NEW BUSINESS

General Ordinance 19-2025- Salary Ordinance and \$250 flex dollars for appointed officers and employees, 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the maximum salary of appointed officers and employees; and annual payment of flex dollars (\$250) to non-contractual full-time employees of the City of Marion, Indiana for the year of 2026. Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: We are pleased to share the 2026 Salary Ordinance for the City of Marion.

General Ordinance 20-2025- Salary Ordinance for elected officials, 1st reading

An ordinance fixing maximum salaries of elected officials of the City of Marion, Indiana, for the year of 2026. Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: We are pleased to share the 2026 Salary Ordinance for the City of Marion Elected Officials.

General Ordinance 21-2025 – Public safety bonus for police officers and fire fighters, 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the one-time public safety bonus: for Police Officers and Fire Fighters for the City of Marion, Indiana for the year of 2026. Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: To express our appreciation for the dedication of our Public Safety employees who are part of the bargaining unit will also receive an additional \$1,000 bonus.

General Ordinance 22-2025- Employee appreciation bonus, 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the one-time employee appreciation bonus: for the City of Marion, Indiana for the year of 2026. Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: To express our appreciation for the dedication of our employees, a one-time bonus of \$1,000 will be provided to full-time employees and \$500 to part-time employees.

General Ordinance 23-2025- Salary Ordinance for Police Department, 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries for police officers for the City of Marion, Indiana for the year 2026. Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: We are pleased to share the 2026 Salary Ordinance for the City of Marion police department.

General Ordinance 24-2025-Salary Ordinance for Fire Department, 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries for firefighters for the City of Marion, Indiana for the year 2026. Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: We are pleased to share the 2026 Salary Ordinance for the City of Marion Fire Fighters.

Resolution 14-2025- Written Agreement for Smash and Dash Vctor's Grill and Thrill, LLC.

A resolution approving a formal written commitment and use agreement by and between the city of Marion, Grant County Indiana and Smash and Dash Vctor's Grill and Thrill, LLC. Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: Smash & Dash is a new family-owned restaurant /entertainment space set to open their doors in the next few months. They've spent the past year working with Economic Development staff to develop their concept for a family-friendly restaurant /entertainment space and secure purchase of 800 E 3rd Street from the Marion RDC. The owners of Smash & Dash will be investing \$700,000+ in the renovation and restoration of the former go-kart facility. Once complete, this will be a unique and exciting addition to the downtown Riverfront District in Marion. In order to support their business, they are seeking approval for a Riverfront Liquor Permit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amplify Marion October 18th and 19th

Citywide Cleanup - District 6 - Sept 20th

REGULAR MEETING – MARION COMMON COUNCIL – September 16, 2025 – 7:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana met in a regular session on TUESDAY, the 16th 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, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, and McKinley

Absent: Marshall

Prayer: Councilman David Cain

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Erika Devine

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – King Gyros-Jimmy Nikolulis

- Nick McKinley introduces Jimmy Nikolulis, owner of King Gyros, for the community spotlight.
- Jimmy has been in business for 35 years, making King Gyros a locally owned and community-supported restaurant.
- Jimmy's restaurant has become a gathering place for families, friends, and neighbors, and he has consistently supported community events.
- Jimmy's dedication and consistency in running his business are highlighted, with Nick McKinley praising his generosity and hard work.
- Jimmy thanks the community for their support and mentions a 35 cents coffee promotion for the month of September.

CITY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT-Rose Cadena-Parks Office Manager/Park Director

- Nick McKinley introduces Rose Cadena, the Parks Office Manager, for the city employee spotlight.
- Rose has been with the city for 18 years and is transitioning to the role of Parks Director.
- She has been instrumental in organizing events and maintaining the quality of life in Marion's parks.
- Rose's leadership and dedication have positively impacted the city's parks and entertainment.
- Council members express their appreciation for Rose's hard work and dedication

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, minutes for September 2, 2025, preapproved claims and claims for SEPTEMBER 16, 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, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Mike Cline reports on the Board of Aviation Commissioners, noting a record-setting breakfast served at the fly-in cruise-in and the approval of construction plans for a parallel taxiway.
- Councilwoman Erika Devine reports on the Board of Works, mentioning the approval of equipment for the building department and the sale of two city-owned properties.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 18-2025-City of Marion Redevelopment Authority 2nd reading and public hearing.

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

- Mayor Ronald Morrell explains the purpose of the Redevelopment Authority, which allows the city to borrow against non-TIF revenue sources.
- Councilman Mike Cline expresses concerns about creating more debt, while Councilman David Cain supports the ordinance as a tool for future projects.
- Gary Fordyce does not agree with the wording “without limitation.”

Public hearing

none

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 18-2025 -Cowgill, second Cain. Aye: Cain, Brunner, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: Fordyce and Cline. Motion passes.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 18-2025-Cowgill, second Cain. Aye: Cain, Brunner, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: Fordyce and Cline. Motion passes.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION 14-2025- 2026 Budget 2nd reading and public hearing

City of Marion 2026 Budget.

- Marion City Court Judge Josh Howell introduces himself to the common council.
- Mayor Ronald Morrell thanks the controller and staff for their hard work keeping the budget balanced and managing the cash reserve.
- Councilman Gary Fordyce asks questions about the parks department's budget and the police department's overtime.

Public hearing

none

Motion to suspend the rules for Additional Appropriation 14-2025- Cain.
After discussion the motion was withdrawn.

Motion to pass Additional Appropriation 14-2025 to third reading-Cain, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, 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 reminds everyone about the open board position with the Grant County Public Safety Operations Communications Board. Deadline to submit resumes is September 26th, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 19-2025- Salary Ordinance and \$250 flex dollars 1st reading

Salary Ordinance and \$250 flex dollars for appointed officers and non-contractual employees.

- Mayor Morrell explains that this supports the salary portion of the budget.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 19-2025 to second reading and public hearing- Cowgill, second Whitton. Aye: Cain, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion

passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 20-2025- Salary Ordinance for elected officials 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries of elected officials for the year 2026.

- Mayor Morrell explains none of the elected officials will receive the bonuses because by law they cannot receive bonuses. Their salaries will remain the same.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 20-2025 to second reading and public hearing- Cline, second Fordyce. Aye: Cain, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 21-2025- Public safety bonus for police and fire 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the one-time public safety bonus for the year 2026.

- Mayor Morrell explained this is what we negotiated in lieu of not being able to give raises this year for our police and fire.
- Nick McKinley states it is his absolute hope is that once there is a clearer picture of the future tax revenue for the city then they can come back next year and give those set percentage raises and not only give them a raise next year but also adjust it with the inflation based on this year as well.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 21-2025 to second reading and public hearing- Cowgill, second Cain. Aye: Cain, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 22-2025- Employee appreciation bonus 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the one-time employee appreciation bonus for the year 2026.

- Mayor Morrell explains this is a one-time bonus to show appreciation to employees because they were not able to get raises this year.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 22-2025 to second reading and public hearing- Cowgill, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 23-2025- Salary ordinance for Police Department 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries for police officers in the City of Marion for the year 2026.

- This supports the budget of salaries for the police officers.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 23-2025 to second reading and public hearing- Cowgill, second Cline. Aye: Cain, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 24-2025- Salary for Fire Department 1st reading

An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries for firefighters for the City of Marion for the year 2026.

- Mayor Morrell states this supports the budget for the salaries for the Fire Department.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 24-2025 to second reading and public hearing- Whitton, second Cline. Aye: Cain, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 14-2025- Agreement for Smash and Dash Vctor's Grill and Thrill, LLC.

A resolution approving a formal written commitment and use agreement by and between the City of Marion, Grant County, Indiana and Smash and Dash Vctor's Grill and Thrill, LLC.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell introduces Rachel and Aaron Lundy-Vctor, owners of Smash and Dash, a new family-friendly restaurant and entertainment space.

- The owners explain their concept, which includes specialty burgers, gourmet grilled cheeses, and family-friendly activities like duck pin bowling and a sports simulator.

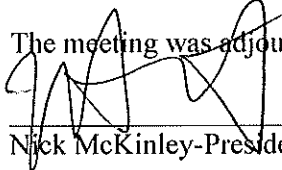
Motion to pass Resolution 14-2025- Cowgill, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Amplify Marion October 18th and 19th.
- The last Citywide Cleanup in District 6 is on September 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Mayor Morrell announces IWU will bring over 200 students to help with the cleanup.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.



Nick McKinley-President