

MARION COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA

PRESIDENT – NICK MCKINLEY VICE PRESIDENT – GARY FORDYCE

Regular Meeting – Marion City Hall Council Chambers

Date: October 07, 2025

Time: 7:00 P.M.



CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER: Pastor Jim Kaminski, New Life Community Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Mike Cline

ROLL CALL

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: Marion Giant Cheerleaders

CITY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Ruben Rangel, Maintenance Assistant

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 2025
- B. CONSIDERATION OF PRE-APPROVED CLAIMS
- C. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION 14-2025 2026 Budget 3rd reading

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.

General Ordinance: 19-2025- Salary Ordinance and \$250 flex dollars for appointed officers and employees, 2nd reading and public hearing

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, 2nd reading and public hearing

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, 2nd reading and public hearing

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, 2nd reading and public hearing

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, 2nd reading and public hearing

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, 2nd reading and public hearing

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.

NEW BUSINESS

General Ordinance 25-2025- Rezoning ordinance, 1st reading

An ordinance of the common council of the city of Marion amending Marion City Code Chapter §153 (Zoning Ordinance). Speaking:

Executive summary: At the regular monthly meeting of the City of Marion Advisory Plan Commission on September 23, 2025, the main agenda item was a public hearing for the rezoning of 800 East Third Street from I-1 Light Industry to GB-General Business for a new restaurant and event center. The proposal aligns with the comprehensive plan's criteria and received a positive staff recommendation. The motion to approve the rezoning was made, seconded, and passed unanimously and subsequently passed on to the City Council.

General Ordinance 26-2025- Bonds for Parks District- 1st reading

An Ordinance Approving the Issuance of Bonds of the City of Marion Parks District and Related Matters.
Speaking: Joe Murphy, Chris Greisl, and a representative from Baker Tilly.

Executive summary: On October 6, 2025, the Park and Recreation Board of the Park District of the City of Marion, Indiana adopted a resolution determining preliminarily to issue special taxing district bonds, in one or more series, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) to finance the construction, acquisition, renovation, installation and equipping of improvements at various parks in the district, including a new Municipal Skatepark and Southside Food Truck Park.

General Ordinance 27-2025- Bonds for Marion Utilities 1st reading

An ordinance approving bonds for Marion Utilities. Speaking: Marion Utility Director Robin Shrader

Executive summary: An ordinance concerning the construction of additions and improvements to the sewage works of the City of Marion, Indiana, the issuance of revenue bonds to provide the cost thereof, the collection, segregation and distribution of the revenues of said sewage works, the safeguarding of the interests of the owners of said revenue bonds, other matters connected therewith, including the issuance of notes in anticipation of bonds, and repealing ordinances inconsistent herewith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amplify Marion October 18th and 19th

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

The Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana met in a regular session on TUESDAY, the 7th day of October 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: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, and McKinley

Absent: Cain

Prayer: Pastor Jim Kaminski, New Life Community Church

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Mike Cline

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – Marion High School Cheerleaders

- Nick McKinley introduces the Marion Giant cheerleaders as the community spotlight.
- Nick McKinley highlights the cheerleaders' dedication, including their summer practices and commitment to the team.
- The cheerleaders are UCA Trophy winners, making them eligible to cheer at the Cheez It Citrus Bowl.
- Nick McKinley mentions the cost of the trip and the need for fundraising, with donations being accepted.
- Coach Taja Bell expresses pride in the cheerleaders' achievements and character, and thanks the community for their support.

CITY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT-Ruben Rangel, Maintenance Assistant

- Nick McKinley introduces Ruben Rangel, the building and grounds assistant, and his daughter Oakley Marie Rangel.
- David Slusher praises Ruben's dedication and professionalism, highlighting his early starts and commitment to his job.
- Nick McKinley appreciates Ruben's contributions and professionalism, noting his involvement in various improvements at City Hall.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 7, 2025, minutes for September 16, 2025, preapproved claims and claims for OCTOBER 7, 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- Cowgill, second Fordyce. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION 14-2025- 2026 Budget 3rd reading

City of Marion 2026 Budget.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell expressed his gratitude for the help from the controller's office and the dedication from the city employees on the budget and the process.

Motion to pass Additional Appropriation 14-2025-Fordyce, Second Brunner. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Devine, 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 explains the process of appointing a member to the Grant County Public Safety Operations Communications Board.
- There were five candidates, Tiffany Smith, Cassidy Moriarity, Justin Faw, Ray Dudley, and Elijah Bilbee.
- Justin Faw, Ray Dudley, and Elijah Bilbee are the candidates that attended the meeting, with Justin Faw being selected by the council.
- Justin Faw receives six votes, making him the new appointee to the board.
- The appointment in a four-year term expires September 30, 2029.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 19-2025- Salary Ordinance and \$250 flex dollars 2nd reading and public hearing

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.

Public hearing

None.

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 19-2025 - Cowgill, second Cline. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 19-2025- Cowgill, second Whitton. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion carries.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 20-2025- Salary Ordinance for elected officials 2nd reading and public hearing
An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries of elected officials for the year 2026.

- Mayor Morrell states the elected officials salaries remain the same. They are not eligible for the bonus.

Public hearing

None.

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 20-2025- Cowgill, second Brunner. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 20-2025-Cowgill, second Brunner. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 21-2025- Public safety bonus for police and fire 2nd reading and public hearing

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

- Mayor Morrell explained it is the one-time public safety bonus.

Public hearing

- Ryan Howell S. Branson St. states the number one priority of any town should be public safety. Ryan thanks everyone for what they do.

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 21-2025-Cowgill, second Whitton. Aye: Marshall,

Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 21-2025- Cowgill, second Whitton. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 22-2025- Employee appreciation bonus 2nd reading and public hearing

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 could not get raises this year.

Public hearing

None.

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 22-2025- Cowgill, second Whitton. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 22-2025- Cowgill, second Whitton. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 23-2025- Salary ordinance for Police Department 2nd reading and public hearing

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.

Public hearing

None.

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 23-2025- Cowgill, second Whitton. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 23-2025- Cowgill, second Whitton. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 24-2025- Salary for Fire Department 2nd reading and public hearing

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.

Public hearing

None.

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 24-2025- Fordyce, second Brunner. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 24-2025- Fordyce, second Brunner. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: None. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 25-2025- Rezoning 800 E. 3rd Street 1st reading

An ordinance of the common council of the city of Marion amending Marion City Code Chapter §153.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell introduces Rachel and Aaron Lundy-Vetor, 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.
- The groundbreaking is coming up, and work should begin soon.
- Work will begin on the go-kart track next year.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 25-2025 to second reading and public hearing- Fordyce, second Brunner. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 26-2025- Bonds for Parks District 1st reading

An ordinance approving the issuance of Bonds of the City of Marion Parks District and other related matters.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell explains the bond issuance for the parks district, which will fund the construction of a new municipal skate park and a food truck park. The owners explain their concept, which includes specialty burgers, gourmet grilled cheeses, and family-friendly activities like duck pin bowling and a sports simulator.
- Andy Mouser, the financial advisor, details the bond terms and interest rates, emphasizing the use of property tax levy funds.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 26-2025 to second reading and public hearing- Fordyce, second Cline. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 27-2025- Bonds for Marion Utilities 1st reading

An ordinance approving bonds for Marion Utilities.

- Robin Shrader discusses the bond for Marion Utilities, which will fund sewer improvements to reduce combined sewer overflows.
- The project will be on Clark Street, which has already been vacated.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 27-2025 to second reading and public hearing- Cowgill, second Devine. Aye: Marshall, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Devine, Whitton, Cowgill, McKinley. Nay: none. Motion passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Amplify Marion October 18th and 19th.
- Town Hall meeting have resumed with the next one being on October 9, 2025 at St. James Lutheran Church, 1206 N. Miller Ave.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.


Gary Fordyce- Vice President