MARION REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 27, 2026
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Marion Redevelopment Commission met in the second-floor conference room at City Hall on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. to conduct its regular meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners present: Darren Reese, Kyren Monteiro, Bill Gartland, Gabe Delgado, and Brian Cowgill

Absent: Nick McKinley

Also present: Redevelopment Director Joe Murphy; Attorney Chris Greisl (Barnes & Thornburg); Financial Andy Mouser (Baker Tilly); Administrative Support Whitney Gilbert; Chief of Operations Keenan Davis, GRCC Director Nate McNeely

2. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2026

b. Approval of Claims

Darren Reese entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Brian Cowgill Second: Bill Gartland Unanimously Passed

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Joe Murphy provided updates on several ongoing redevelopment projects, including progress at the River Rock Lofts development and site preparation and demolition activity related to the Boots Street redevelopment project. He also reported on the anticipated closing of the Jones Heritage Project, with additional input provided by Chris Greisl and Andy Mouser regarding the projected closing timeline and related financing matters. Mr. Murphy further informed the Commission that the first application has been received through the newly launched RDC Loan Program and noted strong interest in the program. He concluded with a brief update on discussions regarding potential refinancing of existing redevelopment debt.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 4 – 2026 APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE GRANT SUPPORTING THE GRANT REGIONAL CAREER CENTER

Executive Director Joe Murphy introduced Resolution No. 4-2026, explaining that the Redevelopment Commission previously approved grant funding to the Grant Regional Career Center to support welding lab upgrades and the development of a CEO leadership and entrepreneurship program. Mr. Murphy stated that the Career Center has requested an amendment to the grant to reduce the CEO program portion of the funding and redirect a portion of those funds toward a different workforce-development initiative.

Nate McNeely, Director of the Grant Regional Career Center, provided additional details regarding the request. Mr. McNeely explained that the amendment would allow the Career Center to implement work-based learning software designed to provide students with simulated workplace experiences and develop employability and career-readiness skills. He noted that the program would primarily serve Marion High School students and is expected to be implemented beginning in the next school year. Mr. McNeely also explained that the amendment would reduce the original grant amount for the CEO program, resulting in a cost savings to the Commission. Mr. McNeely also expressed appreciation to the Commission for its support, noting that previously funded welding lab equipment has significantly improved student safety and air quality in the facility.
Commission members asked brief questions regarding the program and the potential to share information about the partnership during public meetings before proceeding with consideration of the resolution.

Darren Reese entertained a motion to approve Resolution 4-2026.

Motion: Brian Cowgill Second: Bill Gartland Unanimously Passed

8. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

No additional business was brought before the Commission. With no further matters to consider, Darren Reese entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Brian Cowgill Second: Kyren Monteiro Unanimously Passed