



Marion Utilities

1540 N Washington St.
Marion, IN 46952
www.marionutilities.com

Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2026 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the L.E.A.D. Center, Building 101, at Marion Utilities, 1540 N. Washington Street, Marion, Indiana.

Roll was called and those board members present were: Robert Logan, Chair; Isaiah Fuller; Mike Graft; and Herschel Lewis. Kristy Barney, Al Green, and Jayda Monteiro were absent.

Also present at the meeting were: Robin Shrader, Director; Chad Guyer, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance; Kyle Persinger, Attorney; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting Billing Coordinator; Misty Humphries, Secretary; Erika Devine, Council Liaison; and Gary Fordyce, City Council.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Graft, to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2026 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; Mr. Logan, abstain. Motion carried by majority.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the May, 2026 financials for approval. Mrs. Snyder stated that Utility sales remained consistent. Water's revenues increased as expected due to the January 1st rate adjustment. Operating expenses were a little higher than normal due in part to multiple insurance premiums being paid across all four utilities during the month. Mrs. Snyder explained that Water's materials and supplies expense was above average due to increased costs in distribution parts, street repair supplies, and contractual services. Mrs. Snyder reported that sewer operating expenses were higher than average due to a \$115,981.35 expense related to the rerouting of the Lime Lagoon overflow and an \$88,742 purchase of Gorman-Rupp Bethlehem pumps. Mrs. Snyder also reminded everyone that the Water depreciation fund remained at zero. The Utility continued to rely on the \$1.8 million loan from Wastewater to maintain adequate operating cash. Without the loan, the Water operating fund would be approximately \$325,000 below the recommended two month operating reserve. Mrs. Snyder recalled that at the last board meeting, the minimum operating balances were updated and would take effect in June. Mrs. Snyder then stated that the sewer bond proceeds remained in the Construction Fund. The project costs would be paid through the Long Term Control Plan Fund and reimbursed from the Construction Fund. Mrs. Snyder summarized that Water and Wastewater saw a net loss for the month while Stormwater and Solid Waste saw net gains. Mr. Logan commented that Wastewater incurred a loss because of all of the construction activity and events going on which had been planned and budgeted for and would be using anticipated bond fund money issued. Mrs. Snyder said Mr. Logan was correct. Mr. Logan thanked Mrs. Snyder for the clarification. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Graft, to approve the May



financials. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mrs. Shrader reported that the Ivanhoe project would be sent out for quotes before the end of this week. She anticipated having those numbers ready to share at the August 6th meeting. Mr. Graft asked about Clark Street. Mrs. Shrader said that there was an update coming up later in the agenda.

CUSTOMER REQUEST 10TH ST

Mrs. Humphries stated a customer on 10th Street with account ending in 135 requested a review of wastewater charges and wanted refund. The customer's main complaint was that they were charged when it was unclear if their service was actually connected to our infrastructure. Mrs. Humphries said that the Wastewater Committee met to review the request, but their hands were tied on this request because there was an Indiana State Statute stating that if a residence is within 300 feet of an available public sewer, the owners must connect. If they are not connected, they would still be charged for services as the infrastructure was still there and available. Because of the State Statute, the recommendation of the Wastewater Committee was to follow the law which requires declination of the refund. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Graft, to approve the Wastewater Committee's recommendation. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Graft, to approve the recommendation of the Committee. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan thanked the committee for their due diligence. He also said that when the law is pre-stated on an issue, it helps when difficult or challenging decisions might be required.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

Mr. Guyer presented a pay request from Thieneman on the CSO 009 project. Mr. Guyer said it was pay request number four in the amount of \$116,400 with \$24,690 in retainage. Mr. Graft asked where they were at percentage wise. Mr. Guyer said three percent and that \$823,000 had been paid. Mr. Logan asked where the project was. Mr. Guyer said it was at Clark Street & 20th. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Graft, to approve the pay request as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

CUSTOMER REQUEST 38TH ST

Mrs. Humphries reported that a request had been received from Jon D. Madison, Attorney-at-Law, on behalf of his client that lives on 38th Street with account ending in 333. The request was for removal of penalties. Mrs. Humphries requested that the item be assigned to the Wastewater Committee. Mr. Logan assigned the request to the Wastewater Committee. Mr. Lewis asked why the request came up. Mrs. Humphries said the customer was looking to sell the property and would like to get the bill resolved so they could close quickly.

COMMONWEATH CHANGE ORDER CSO 009

Mrs. Shrader said this was the change order she had been anticipating and discussed during the last couple board meetings. Mrs. Shrader highlighted a couple things. First, the total amount was \$1,023,763 which was slightly higher than we anticipated and was due to the actual cost of

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the Earth Retention System supplier being higher than anticipated. This also included a time increase of 160 days to account for the delay in figuring all of this out. The new date for substantial completion would then be December 2, 2027. Mrs. Shrader said assuming the board approves this change tonight, mobilization would be scheduled to begin next Wednesday, July 15th with construction activities beginning on July 22nd. Mr. Graft asked if Mrs. Shrader would review the other numbers received. Mrs. Shrader answered yes and explained that when we originally heard about the change order, and just for the record that had to do with arsenic in the soil at a level that was not anticipated, they offered three options with ballpark pricing figures. The first option came in at approximately \$3 million to continue the project as is with additional soil remediation. Option two was moving the tank along with some other slight adjustments which came in at around \$2 million. The third option was the least expensive and at that time, they had said around \$900,000 but were still getting estimates. This option would include a small reduction in the size of the tank resulting in a different means of accounting for soil management and not digging quite as large of a hole. Mr. Graft asked if the smaller hole would impact the operational status. Mrs. Shrader said that was an excellent question and that the engineers ran the model a couple of times to make sure that it was still going to meet the parameters that we agreed to, and they believe it will. Mrs. Shrader said that if we could take a little bit more, it was still beneficial to the environment, and we want to do that in good faith, but in the case of costing an extra million or \$2 million...Mr. Graft interjected that the benefit wouldn't seem to outweigh the cost. Mrs. Shrader said that was correct because the big question was, it was going to mitigate something downstream, it would be worth that extra million or \$2 million to maintain the size of the tank, and they discovered it would not. Mr. Graft moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the Commonwealth Change Order for CSO 009. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

M. Humphries, Executive Assistant/Administrative Manager

Mrs. Humphries said the Customer Service & Administrative Team had begun training on the InvoiceCloud portal. This will be the new software for the customer portal. Customers would be able to use the portal to make payments, view invoices, etc. It's a lot cleaner and much more user friendly. Mrs. Humphries also said that the State Board of Accounts had supposedly concluded, but requests from the auditors were still being received. When it was finally wrapped up, each board member would receive an email invitation for the exit conference. She asked that the Board please make sure to keep an out on their email. The email would come from an address ending in sboafe.IN.gov. Mrs. Humphries announced that at the next meeting, some new lapel mics would be recording the sound. She explained that the sound system works great...maybe a little too great as some other sounds are picked up and recorded that can make the recordings muddled. Mr. Lewis asked if the lapel mics were something that would be worn from here on out. Mrs. Humphries said possibly.

C. Guyer, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mr. Guyer said that he and Mr. Pinkerton met with IDEM and the DNR regarding the old lagoons on 11th Street off of Pennsylvania. Mr. Guyer said that Mr. Graft knew about the situation and he didn't want to get into the weeds as to what the Utility could be looking at, but there has to be a plan developed for the future of the 10 acre area. Mr. Guyer said with the old plant on 7th

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Street was in operation, the lime slurry was pumped over there. Roughly, in the 1980s that ceased. The area has been used for clean fill since then. Mr. Guyer said things have changed so talks were being entered to find out what it's going to take to satisfy the powers that be regarding that property. Mr. Guyer said this item would be brought back to the board many times probably. Mr. Lewis asked the amount of acreage involved. Mr. Guyer said it was about 10 acres. The area is in a flood plain so that complicates things with federal agencies. Mr. Lewis said he was trying to place the location. Mr. Graft said you wouldn't know it was there.

R. Shrader, Director

Mrs. Shrader said succession plan discussions regarding some of the more impacting retirements anticipated within the next 6 months were moving forward. So, for the Personnel Committee, stay tuned for emails to schedule a meeting as soon as possible. Some of the original timelines had been adjusted, which means we need to set things in motion in the very near future.

Mrs. Shrader announced that there was a wonderful turnout at the Splash House yesterday for the summer outreach campaign. Last year, there was a threat of storms on the day selected so the turnout wasn't fantastic. But this year, there were more than 500 people who came through the gates. Mrs. Shrader said the agreement was to provide a discount to the first 500, which totaled \$2,000 approximately. There was a DJ, Loretta Tappan, and a booth with games and prizes. And like last year, the water taste test was a major hit. The results were 50/50 of knowing which was tap and which was fancy.

Lastly, Brian Cowgill shared yesterday that the City Council has yet to receive any applications for new board appointments. Mrs. Shrader encouraged the board, if they were aware of someone who might positively contribute to the board and be interested in participating, to please either let the Senior Leadership Team know or send them to City Hall for the paperwork.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis asked what the situation was with the Splash Pad. Mrs. Shrader said it was back in operations. Mr. Graft said that there were some issues with the surface. First, it was too slick, and people were falling and hurting themselves. A contractor was hired to put some material on it to combat the slickness. Mr. Graft said he ran around on the area and cut his feet. A local contractor was then hired to remove the coatings and roughen up the concrete. Mr. Graft said that it was now back open. Mr. Lewis joked that he had to take detours with his granddaughter while it was closed. Mr. Graft announced that the hours had been extended since it was still light later in the evening. Mr. Logan confirmed that the area being discussed was just down from Spencer Avenue. Mr. Graft said that was correct there was a sign reading The Splash Factory at the Bill Henry Park. Mr. Fuller said he runs by there each morning, and there used to be tape marking the area off. Mr. Graft noted that there had been some confusion as people would drive by and not see the water running so they thought it was shut down. However, there is a button that has to be pushed so the water is activated. If the button is not pushed, there is no water coming out. Mr. Fuller said with the hot weather last week, he was tempted to run through there and push the button. Mrs. Snyder asked Mr. Fuller to take a selfie if he should push the button.

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan said it was good to be back and wonderful to see everyone. He thanked Mrs. Devine and Mr. Fordyce for attending.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2026.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr., to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
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ATTEST



Misty Humphries, Its Secretary

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