

MARION COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA

PRESIDENT – BRIAN COWGILL VICE PRESIDENT – ERIKA DEVINE

Regular Meeting – Marion City Hall Council Chambers

Date: August 18, 2026

Time: 7:00 P.M.



CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER: Pastor Jeremy Moore, Sunny Community Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Dr. Jeffrey Reyes

ROLL CALL

RECOGNITION-SPOTLIGHT: Marion Parks and Recreation employees and volunteers

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING August 4, 2026
- B. CONSIDERATION OF PRE-APPROVED CLAIMS
- C. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS
- D. APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Additional Appropriation 14-2026- Appropriation for Blight Elimination- 2nd reading public hearing

An additional appropriation appropriating \$500,000 for Blight Elimination. Speaking: Justin Dickerson, Building Commissioner.

Executive summary: The addition appropriation will be used to strengthen the communities in the City of Marion by addressing vacant, deteriorated, or unsafe properties thereby improving neighborhood safety, attracting investment and supporting economic development.

NEW BUSINESS

General Ordinance 04-2026 2nd Street direction change-1st

Discussion of three options to amend General Ordinance 13-1995 changing 2nd Street to a two- way street. Speaking: Mike Graft Administrative and Project Manager and Chairman of Traffic Commission

Executive summary: Pursuant to the recent vacation of 1st Street from Branson to Adams it was determined by the Traffic Commission that 2nd Street direction be changed to assist in Public Safety vehicles access to Washington Street be preserved. This amendment will provide the movement of traffic to stay consistent with this request and provide access for local businesses.

Announcements

REGULAR MEETING – MARION COMMON COUNCIL – August 18, 2026 – 7:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana met in a regular session on TUESDAY, the 18th day of August 2026, 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, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill

Absent:

Prayer: Jeremy Moore- Sunnycrest Community Church

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Dr. Jeffrey Reyes

SPOTLIGHT/RECOGNITION: Marion Parks and Recreation employees and volunteers.

- Rose Cadena and Brian Cowgill recognized the Marion Parks and Recreational employees and volunteers for their work at Matter Park Gardens and other city parks.
- Individual certificates were presented to the staff members and volunteers.
- Council members Gary Fordyce and Eric Marshall shared their appreciation for the quality of the city's park facilities.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR AUGUST 18, 2026 preapproved claims and claims for August 18, 2026

President Brian Cowgill moves for a motion to approve the consent agenda for August 18, 2026.

Motion to approve the consent agenda for August 18, 2026 Cain, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mike Cline reported that the Aviation Board's fuel farm is operational following a valve installation enabled by ARPA funds.
- The Aviation Board is currently awaiting news regarding a grant application for a partial parallel taxiway construction project.
- Erika Devine updated the council on Board of Works discussions regarding updated drone Standard Operating Procedures and efforts to sell a surplus drone via bid.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION 14-2026- Appropriation for blight elimination

A resolution for \$500,000 for blight elimination.

- Building Commissioner Justin Dickerson presented a second reading for an additional \$500,000 appropriation from the Mayor's Edit Fund for blight elimination.
- Dickerson noted that 12 properties are ready for immediate action, with another 40 residential properties currently under review.
- Councilman Gary Fordyce requested that the entire \$500,000 be dedicated strictly to demolitions rather than other uses.

Public hearing

- Greg Kitts (North River Road) is in favor of this and asked if the city will demolish the property and the owner pay for the dumpsters.
- Ryan Howell (South Branson Street) is not in favor. Blight Elimination will take care of its self. The money could go to landlords, entrepreneurs, and high-paying jobs.
- Bill Creech (Ironwood Drive) definitely in favor. Pontiac Michigan has a program where the property was sold for \$1 for development and the new owner pay for the demolition.
- Ruthann Sumpter (Macalan Drive) informs the board about a property on South Nebraska St and cars near the library at the old Jewish Temple.
- Linda Wilk (West 5th Street) in favor, it would be nice to recoup some of the money.
- Michael Duke (Bradford Pike) asked if the information for the demolitions is public record.

Public hearing closed.

- Justin Dickerson explained there are three main contractors that he uses, but they give every one a chance to give a quote.
- Gary Fordyce said the bids are public record.
- Dr. Jeff Reyes asked for clarification on the process.
- Justin Dickerson explained the Board of Works came up with a five-star review with five being the worse. A ten-day notice is sent to the owner and then it goes back to the Board of Works to vote on demolition.

Motion to suspend the rules and pass Additional Appropriation 14-2026 with the caveat of the \$500,000 only being spent on demolitions: Fordyce, second Cain. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

Motion to pass Additional Appropriation 14-2026: Fordyce, second Whitton. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION FOR GENERAL ORDINANCE 04-2026

Discussion of three options to amend General Ordinance 13-1995 changing 2nd Street to a two-way street.

- Mike Graft presented three options to amend General Ordinance 13-1995 regarding changing Second Street from one-way to two-way traffic.
- Alternate One involves converting Second Street between Adams and Branson Street for approximately \$5,000 with minimal parking loss; this was recommended by the Traffic Commission due to public safety concerns caused by recent street closures.
- The council reviewed more expensive alternatives that involve greater costs (up to \$228,000) and significant loss of downtown parking spaces.
- Council agreed on option 1. Converting Second Street between Adams and Branson Street. Mike Graft will return in two weeks with the written ordinance.

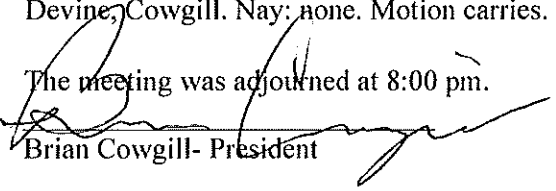
No action taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Motion to adjourn- Cain, seconded Cline. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.


Brian Cowgill- President