

MARION COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA

PRESIDENT – BRIAN COWGILL VICE PRESIDENT – ERIKA DEVINE

Regular Meeting – Marion City Hall Council Chambers

Date: September 01, 2026

Time: 7:00 P.M.



CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER: April Clemens-Evans

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Gary Fordyce

ROLL CALL

RECOGNITION-SPOTLIGHT: Lillian Harshaw- Neighborhood Association Coordinator

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING August 18, 2026
- B. CONSIDERATION OF PRE-APPROVED CLAIMS
- C. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS
- D. APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

General Ordinance 04-2026 Amending General Ordinance 13-1995-1st reading

Ordinance amending General Ordinance 13-1995 turning 2nd Street to a two-way street between Adams and Branson. 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.

Additional Appropriation 15-2026- Appropriation for Fire Truck 1st reading

An appropriation appropriating \$725,000 for a fire truck. Speaking: Fire Chief Curtis Garr

Executive summary: The Marion Fire Department is welcoming a new Fire Engine and will need to be fully equipped and ready for work. Having the right type of equipment impacts Marion Fire Department's readiness to respond to emergencies.

2027 Budget-2027 City of Marion Budget-1st reading

We are pleased to share the 2027 Budget for the City of Marion. This budget reflects our continued commitment to the city's mission and long-term goals. Speaking: 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 2027 and anticipate maintaining our cash reserve balance.

Announcements

Last city-wide clean up of 2026 will be on September 12, 2026 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

REGULAR MEETING – MARION COMMON COUNCIL – September 1, 2026– 7:00 P.M. –
CITY HALL

The Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana met in a regular session on TUESDAY, the 1st day of September 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, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill

Absent: Marshall

Prayer: Debra Cain- Center Township Trustee

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Gary Fordyce

SPOTLIGHT/RECOGNITION: Lillian Harshaw- Neighborhood Association Coordinator

- Brian Cowgill and Layla Price-Bodkin recognize Lillian Harshaw for the employee spotlight.
- Layla Price-Bodkin said Lillian makes her so proud and she is happy that she was able to hire her to join her team.
- Layla Price-Bodkin said she is thankful for her work ethic, bubbly personality, and for being a team player.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 preapproved claims and claims for
September 01, 2026

President Brian Cowgill moves for a motion to approve the consent agenda for September 1, 2026.

Motion to approve the consent agenda for September 1, 2026 Cain, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

GENERAL ORDINANCE 04-2026- Changing 2nd Street to a two-way street

Ordinance amending General Ordinance 13-1995 turning 2nd Street to a two-way street between Adams and Branson.

- Mike Graft Administrative and Project Manager and Chairman of Traffic Commission presented General Ordinance 04-2026 changing 2nd Street to a two-way street between Adams and Branson.
- Mike Graft explained this was approved by the Traffic Commission.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 04-2026 to second reading public hearing Fordyce, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION 15-2026- Appropriating \$725,000 for fire truck

An appropriation appropriating \$725,000 for a fire truck.

- Fire Chief Curtis Garr presented Additional Appropriation 15-2026 for a fire truck and equipment.
- \$25,000 is allocated for an extended warranty through the company covering the aerial equipment and pump.
- Councilman Fordyce questioned the necessity of the warranty and the budget for equipment maintenance.

Motion pass Additional Appropriation 15-2026 to second reading public hearing: Cain, second Whitton. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

2027 Budget

The city of Marion administration presented the 2027 budget.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell presented the 2027 City of Marion budget, noting it is a balanced budget.
- Mayor Morrell emphasized his priority of supporting city employees through raises this year.
- Councilman Mike Cline expressed opposition to providing raises for elected officials during their term in office.
- Brian Cowgill defended the raises by noting that elected officials have gone without increases for twenty years.
- Justin Dickerson and Mayor Morrell presented a proposal to hire a full-time demolition operator to increase blight elimination efforts.
- The proposed position would cost approximately 157,000 dollars including salary, benefits, equipment, and fuel.
- The plan aims to increase annual demolitions from 10 properties to 20 properties while saving money compared to external contractors.
- Councilman Fordyce raised questions about whether equipment and fuel costs could be reallocated from existing street maintenance budgets.

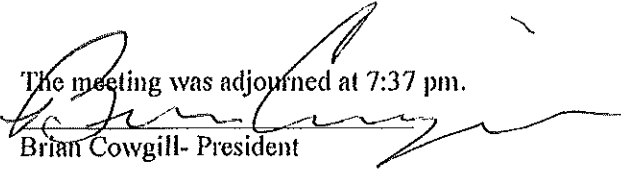
Motion to pass the 2027 budget to second reading public hearing Cain, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: Cline. Motion carries.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mayor Cowgill announced a citywide cleanup scheduled for September 12, 2026, in Ward 6.
- David Cain reminded attendees about the Flying Cruise In event occurring on September 5th.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.


Brian Cowgill- President