

MARION COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA

PRESIDENT – BRIAN COWGILL VICE PRESIDENT – ERIKA DEVINE

Regular Meeting – Marion City Hall Council Chambers

Date: October 06, 2026

Time: 7:00 P.M.



CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER: Day Shift Sergeant Joe Biddle

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Mike Cline

ROLL CALL

RECOGNITION-SPOTLIGHT: S.O.S. (Save Our Stories)

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING September 15, 2026
- B. CONSIDERATION OF PRE-APPROVED CLAIMS
- C. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS
- D. APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2027 Budget-2027 City of Marion Budget-3rd 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.

General Ordinance 05-2026 – Salary Ordinance and \$250 flex dollars for appointed officers and employees-2nd reading 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 2027. Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: We are pleased to share the 2027 Salary Ordinance for the City of Marion.

General Ordinance 06-2026- Salary Ordinance for Fire Department-2nd reading public hearing

An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries for firefighters for the City of Marion, Indiana for the year 2027. Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: We are pleased to share the 2027 Salary Ordinance for the City of Marion Fire Fighters.

General Ordinance 07-2026- Salary Ordinance for Police Department- 2nd reading public hearing

An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries for police officers for the City of Marion, Indiana for the year 2027.
Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: We are pleased to share the 2027 Salary Ordinance for the City of Marion police department.

General Ordinance 08-2026- Salary Ordinance for Elected Officials- 2nd reading public hearing

An ordinance fixing maximum salaries of elected officials of the City of Marion, Indiana, for the year of 2027.
Speaking: Mayor Ronald Morrell Jr.

Executive summary: We are pleased to share the 2027 Salary Ordinance for the elected officials for the City of Marion.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Aviation- Request for council approval

A request approval to look for financing just in case invoices are received prior to receiving the IDEM reimbursement funds. Speaking: Ray Dosh

Executive summary: The Board of Aviation is requesting Council authorization to obtain a loan of up to \$422,532.72 to pay the local portion for the construction of four additional T-hangar units. Actual construction on this project is not expected to get underway until mid to late 2027 due to availability of materials and will largely be funded by IDEM reimbursement funds for the removal of our AvGas underground storage tank (which funds are not anticipated until 2027). The requested loan would be used to pay any design fees invoiced prior to the end of this year and in excess of funds currently available in our 6603 (Capital Improvement Projects) account.

General Ordinance 09-2026- Rezone- of 759 S. Lenfesty 1st reading

An ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana amending Marion City Code Chapter §153 (Zoning Ordinance) and providing for the effective date thereof. Speaking: Mike Graft Administrative and Project Manager and Chairman of Traffic Commission

Executive summary: The project site is developed with a church. The current tenant is relocating to a new site and would like to sell this property. To increase the property's marketability and allow reuse, the applicant requests rezoning from R3 Residential to Professional Business (PB) zoning district.

Resolution 14-2026- A resolution for a local match

A resolution authorizing application submission and local match commitment from the Marion Common Council for the City of Marion's application for the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs owner-occupied rehabilitation program.

Executive summary: This resolution authorizes the City of Marion to apply for \$350,000 in CDBG funding through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs' Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (OOR) Program, Cycle 3 2026 (deadline November 1, 2026), and commits \$100,000 in local match, the existing annual budget of the Marion Home Repair Assistance Program, to be used solely with the OOR funds. If awarded, the program's total budget would grow from \$100,000 to \$480,000, raising assistance from \$5,000 to \$25,000 per home and serving more households, with priority for seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans. The Affordable Housing Corporation would be the subrecipient and grant administrator as well as program administrator, relieving the Building Department of this workload. If the application is unsuccessful, the \$100,000 remains available to the City for the existing program.

Update from Marion Utilities

An update from Marion Utilities regarding the Long-Term-Control Plan and projects. Speaking: Robin Shrader, Director of Marion Utilities.

Executive summary: A summary of findings and recommendations from Commonwealth Engineers related to Marion Utilities final Long-Term-Control Plan projects and associated implications for the wastewater treatment facility, financial considerations, and necessity for IDEM approval.

Announcements:

Marion Parks and Recreation Fall Fest on October 24, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

REGULAR MEETING – MARION COMMON COUNCIL – October 06, 2026– 7:00 P.M. –
CITY HALL

The Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana met in a regular session on TUESDAY, the 6th 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, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill

Absent:

Prayer: Marion Police Department Sergeant Joe Biddle

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Mike Cline

SPOTLIGHT/RECOGNITION: S.O.S

- Councilman David Cain introduced the members of S.O.S. An organization in Marion, Indiana of a group of people that is dedicated to and committed to local historical preservation.
- Sue Bratton explained that Indiana Landmarks awarded the organization for its commitment to historic preservation through education, awareness, resources, both financial and moral support.
- S.O.S. has invested in the old First Friends Church at the corner of 15th and Adams, the old Ginger Lees at 917 S. Adams and the House of Worship for All People which were all Samuel Plato Projects.
- Samuel Plato was one of Indiana's first black architects.
- S.O.S. received the Sandy Servaas Memorial Award which is given for excellence in historic preservation, along with \$2,000.
- David Cain invited anyone interested in joining S.O.S. to attend a meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 6, 2026 preapproved claims and claims for October 06, 2026

President Brian Cowgill moves for a motion to approve the consent agenda for October 6, 2026.

Motion to approve the consent agenda for October 6, 2026- Cain, second Reyes. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilwoman Erika Devine reported the Marion Utility Board met on September 17th. There were updates on some of the projects and a review of the Cloudpoint contract which tracks all of the water and sewer inventory.
- September was safety month and a number of safety training, CPR first aid and annual training with IPEP, the Work Comp Carrier, and forklift certification courts through Insafe Partnership.
- OUCC will be visiting soon for the financial audit regarding the water rate increase.

- Devine stated the city turned over several parcels to the Grant County Economic Development Corporation for easier maintenance.
- The parks department requested two vehicles which were approved.
- Due to the amount of 911 calls, the homeless people, stripping of copper, fires in the building and the safety of the fire and suppression system the mall is considered unsafe and Planet Fitness is closed as well.
- The Board of Works upheld the emergency order for thirty days. Demolition orders were granted for 3120 S. Branson, 1504 S. Geneva, and 724 E. Grant.
- Councilman Mike Cline reported on the City Plan Commission who met September 22, 2026 and gave a favorable recommendation for a rezoning plan for the River Church on Lenfesty.
- Cline informed everyone there were about 100 planes at the annual Fly-in-Cruise in and more than 3000 breakfasts served.
- Councilman Mike Cline reports the Airport Board is moving ahead with a partial parallel taxiway toward runway 33. Wolpert, is working to close out the grant documentation for the design. The construction contracts have been executed with Brooks Construction and Wolpert is working on pre-construction preparations.

2027 Budget-3rd reading

The city of Marion administration presented the 2027 budget.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell thanked his team for their hard work on the 2027 budget.

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

GENERAL ORDINANCE 05-2026-Salary ordinance and \$250 flex dollars for appointed officers and employees 2nd reading public reading

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 2027.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell explains this the Salary Ordinance for the employees of the city of Marion that accompanies the 2027 Budget.

Public hearing

None

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 05-2026- Cain, second Reyes. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 05-202- Cain, second Cline. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 06-2026- Salary ordinance for Fire Fighters- 2nd reading public hearing
An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries for firefighters for the City of Marion, Indiana for the year 2027.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell explains this is the Salary Ordinance for the Fire Department that accompanies the 2027 Budget.

Public hearing

None.

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 06-2026- Cain, second Reyes. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 06-2026- Cain, second Cline. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 07-2026- Salary for Marion Police Officers-2nd reading public hearing

An ordinance fixing the maximum salaries for police officers for the City of Marion, Indiana for the year 2027.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell explains this is the Salary Ordinance for Marion Police Department that accompanies the 2027 budget.

Public hearing

None.

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 07-2026- Cain, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 07-2026- Cain, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: none. Motion carries.

GENERAL ORDINANCE 08-2026-Salary Ordinance for Elected Officials-2nd reading public hearing

An ordinance fixing maximum salaries of elected officials of the City of Marion, Indiana, that accompanies the 2027 Budget.

- Mayor Ronald Morrell explains this ordinance if for Elected Officials.
- Councilman Mike Cline states his vote is no. It is not to knock the folks who put this budget together but electeds ought not vote themselves raises while in office.
- Councilman David Cain states there is no other state statute that addresses that.

Public hearing

None

Motion to suspend the rules for General Ordinance 08-2026- Cain, second Reyes. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: Cline. Motion carries.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 08-2026- Cain, second Reyes. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: Cline. Motion carries.

BOARD OF AVIATION-Request for council approval

- Ray Dosh from the Board of Aviation explained they are seeking approval to seek funding in case the reimbursement is not received before invoices begin coming in for the project. He does not anticipate they will need funding but they would like to begin looking, this will be a backfill.
- Councilman Dr. Jeffrey Reyes stated this will cost more in the end. He asked how will that be mitigated and how is the project being paid for already?
- Ray Dosh explained there is a little more than \$239,000 in the 6603 account. This request would be for anything in excess of that but they are not expecting to take out any loan at this point.

Motion to give approval for the Board of Aviation to secure loans in an as-needed case-Cain, second Cline. Aye: Cain, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill. Nay: Reyes. Motion carries.

General Ordinance 09-2026-Rezone of 759 S. Lenfesty 1st reading

An ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Marion, Indiana amending Marion City Code Chapter §153 (Zoning Ordinance and providing for the effective date thereof.

- Mike Graft explains the River Church will be moving to the South Campus and would like to rezone this property. A conversation was had with a realtor and the consensus is for more a professional business zoning. It is much less obtrusive as general business. Zoning it as general business opens it up more opportunities.
- A few permitted uses for general business bed and breakfast, boarding houses, contractors, temporary building, day care center, elementary, secondary school, farm, homestay, junior college, library, orphanages or clinics.
- If it is left zoned the way it is only a church can go in it. A church can go into the building zoned as professional business too but this opens it up for more.

Motion to pass General Ordinance 09-2026 to second reading, public hearing- Cain, second Brunner. Aye: Cain, Reyes, Fordyce, Brunner, Cline, Marshall, Whitton, Devine, Cowgill.

Resolution 14-2026- A resolution for a local match

A resolution authorizing application submission and local match commitment from the Marion Common Council for the City of Marion's application for the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs owner-Occupies rehabilitation program.

- Mikayla Marazzi from Affordable Housing Corporation explains this for authorization to apply for a \$350,000 OCRA Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program.
- The ask for the city is \$100,000 which the city already has of an existing home repair program.

- If awarded the funding could expand the assistance from \$5,000 to as much as \$25,000 per home.
- Home owners must live in the homes and within the Marion City limits.
- It is believed the majority of the funds will be used for people with disabilities, seniors over the age of 62 and veterans.
- The program can cover, roofing, hot water heaters, HVAC, and interior modifications.

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

Update from Marion Utilities

An update from Marion Utilities regarding the Long-Term- Control Plan and projects.

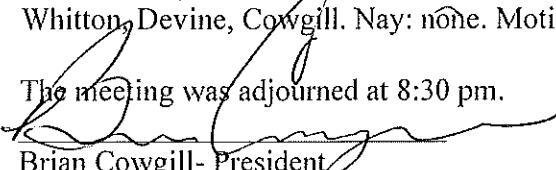
- Robin Shrader stated a consultant recommended building a new oxidation ditch for wastewater treatment plant. The South plant is about 90 years old and the North plant is approaching 50.
- The plan includes wet-weather storage at the main plant and a lift station across the river from the Spencer overflow, near the splash pad with a force main along Washington Street. The old plant would be repurposed for about 6.5 million gallons of wet-weather storage.
- The estimated cost for the recommended projects is about \$181.7 million. It was proposed to complete the project over roughly 10 years.
- The financial consultant is still analyzing costs by phase, debt capacity and the rate changes that will be needed.
- The first phase alone was estimated at about \$10 million and could raise the debt service from about \$2 million to \$10 million within a few years. A rate proposal will be coming in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Marion Utilities annual Trunk or Treat October 29 from 5-7 pm at 300 building.
- Let My Light Shine. Lights on veterans' graves on October 17 at 9:00 am at the Marion VA.
- Marion Parks and Recreation Fall Fest October 24, 2026 from 1-4 pm.
- Early voting has started.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.


Brian Cowgill- President