

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5:00 P.M**

The Marion City Council met in regular session on May 19, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Taylor Davis, Dwight Sherer, Bobby Belt and Nikki Conger. City employees in attendance were as follows: Chief Bobby West, Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Cortny Cosby, Greg Tabor, Tony Jackson, Tanya Scholtz, Fire Chief Red Howton, Anna Baker and Legal Service Officer, Bart Frazer.

Public Comments

Garrett Clark introduced himself as the Economic Executive Director for the Lake Barkley Partnership which includes Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell and Lyon County areas. Garrett Clark stated he was looking forward to working in our area.

General Government

A motion was made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 19, 2025. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the second reading of ORDINANCE NO. 25-03 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF MARION CODE OF ETHICS AND ADOPTING THE CITY-COUNTY CODE OF ETHICS BY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARION AND CRITTENDEN COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAME. Motion to approve ORDINANCE NO. 25-03 made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. Roll call Randy Dunn; yes, Wanda Olson; yes, Taylor Davis; yes, Dwight Sherer; yes, Bobby Belt; yes, Nikki Conger; yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the second reading of ORDINANCE NO. 25-04 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A PUBLIC WAY AS A STREET IN THE CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY AND TO BE NAMED FREE WILL STREET. Motion to approve ORDINANCE NO. 25-04 was made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. Roll call Randy Dunn; yes, Wanda Olson; yes, Taylor Davis; yes, Dwight Sherer; yes, Bobby Belt; yes, Nikki Conger; yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the second reading of ORDINANCE NO. 25-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #24-02A ADOPTING THE CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 07/01/2024 THROUGH 06/30/2025 BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT. Motion to approve ORDINANCE NO. 25-04 was made by Council Member Nikki Conger, seconded by Council Member Dwight Sherer. Roll call Randy Dunn; yes, Wanda Olson; yes, Taylor Davis; yes, Dwight Sherer; yes, Bobby Belt; yes, Nikki Conger; yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the second reading of ORDINANCE NO. 25-06 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK SECTION 3 DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE WORKPLACE. Motion to approve ORDINANCE NO. 25-06 made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. Roll call Randy Dunn; yes, Wanda Olson; yes, Taylor Davis; yes, Dwight Sherer; yes, Bobby Belt; yes, Nikki Conger; yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning began the discussion to move forward with the top portion of the street paving list, the list is attached and made part of these minutes. Mayor Browning stated that Harmon Drive, Earl Patmore and Chapel Hill Drive will be put on hold and discussed with Kentucky Emergency Management. Council Member Dwight Sherer questioned when the city might receive the funds if approved. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield advised that we did not get the grant money for the seven streets that we applied for. Council Member Wanda Olson asked if there was a way to get potholes fixed on the streets that were placed on hold. Mayor Browning suggested hot patching. Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor advised that we only have cold mix. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield requested that Council Member Wanda Olson meet with her at a later date to discuss these potholes with Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor. Mayor Browning asked Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor what process he used for handling potholes. Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor responded that they are done in between work orders and during free time. Council Member Bobby Belt stated that both 100 and 200 W Elm Street still have significantly sized potholes. Council Member Randy Dunn stated that Chapel Hill Road needed gravel. Mayor Browning advised Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor to speak with Audi Merriman at the Crittenden County Road Department about getting gravel for Chapel Hill Road. Motion to approve the top portion of the paving list made by Council Member Taylor Davis, seconded by Council Member Wanda Olson. Motion carried.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield began the budget discussion by thanking all departments for their hard work and dedication. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield spoke about a budget increase and stated that she has tried several different ways to save money as a city, including partnering with other cities to purchase chemicals or salt in bulk. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield noted that the money for the KY WWATERS Grant was included in this budget. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that a water rate increase is necessary, the minimum recommendation is 13% on water only, on an average monthly bill that is a \$3.00 increase. Council Member Dwight Sherer stated that water is an entity in itself. Mayor Browning stated that this is correct, and it has to sustain itself. Council Member Bobby Belt stated that he agrees, however an increase should be done in increments. Council Member Bobby Belt also added that he is opposed to an increase in the occupational fee on payroll and stated we should be able to cut costs instead of making increases. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that she has to have the budget by June 30th, and she needed a first reading to begin the process. Council Member Wanda Olson asked if 15% was the preferred increase for the water utility. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield replied yes, or a minimum of 13%. Council Member Bobby Belt stated once again that he would like to see the water rate increase, but only in increments and will never be in favor of doubling the occupational fee on payroll. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that we did zero increases in the water last year, and this year we are required to have an increase of at least 13%. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield added that moving forward a yearly increase would be an option. Citizen Rhonda Horack stated that this would be a wonderful opportunity to raise the business license fee. Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer stated that the business license fee has remained the same since the 70's. Council Member Wanda Olson stated that as a business owner herself we need to catch up with the rest of the world. Council Member Bobby Belt stated that he was against raising the fee for a business license. Council Member Dwight Sherer stated that this council was elected to run the city and added that his personal opinion would be to choose the 15% rate increase. Council Member Wanda Olson stated that she agreed with Council Member Dwight Sherer. Council Member Randy Dunn stated that he also agrees. Council Member Dwight Sherer sponsored the first reading of ORDINANCE NO. 25-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WATER RATES FOR THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY, that will be a 15% rate increase for Water rates. Council Member Bobby Belt stated that he does not agree with the increase in the water rate all at once and believed that it should be increased in smaller increments. Council Member Randy Dunn sponsored the first reading of ORDINANCE NO. 25-08 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 110.22(A) TO THE IMPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE REQUIREMENT AND PAYMENT OF AN OCCUPATIONAL AND OTHER COMPENSATION AND NET PROFITS TAX BY PERSONS AND BUSINESS ENTITIES CONDUCTING BUSINESSES, OCCUPATIONS, AND PROFESSIONS WITHIN THE CORPORATE CITY LIMITS OF MARION, KENTUCKY, an occupational payroll tax increase of 1.5% and the increase of the business license fee taking it from \$25.00 to \$50.00 annually.

Mayor Browning requested consideration from the council to approve bids for the water meters and infrastructure. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that our Engineer Alan Robinson recommended D-Port Directional Drilling and Utilities, the same company who recently replaced water lines on West Depot St. Mayor Browning requested Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor to make a list of five more bad hydrants that need to be replaced. Motion to approve the bid placed by D-Port Directional Drilling and Utilities for the water meters and infrastructure only made by Council Member Taylor Davis, seconded by Council Member Nikki Conger. All present members voted. Motion carried.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield provided an update on KU lighting, she stated that all forms have been both submitted and ordered, KU should begin installing new lighting in late June or early July in zones similar to the leaf pick up in the fall.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that there will be a special called meeting for the fiscal year budget for 2025/2026.

Code Enforcement Officer Tanya Scholtz provided an update on the complaint list; she stated that the original list began with 61 items, and she now had the list down to 42 items due to compliance or duplicate complaints. Council Member Nikki Conger stated that she was very impressed with both the hard work and transparency that Code Enforcement Officer Tanya Scholtz has shown. Code Enforcement Officer Tanya Scholtz stated that she received a city cell phone that she will now be accepting calls and text messages on. Mayor Browning stated that Code Enforcement Officer Tanya Scholtz is doing a wonderful job. Citizen Ric Carder questioned the process of a violation and stated that the penalty should be higher. Code Enforcement Officer Tanya Scholtz explained the ordinance reads that every day is a new fine after a certain point.

Other Business

Council Member Nikki Conger suggested a no passing zone sign in front of McDonald. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield advised that the road is a state highway. Mayor Browning stated that she was previously advised that it was legal to pass in that zone. Chief Bobby West also advised that to his understanding it was legal to safely pass in this zone.

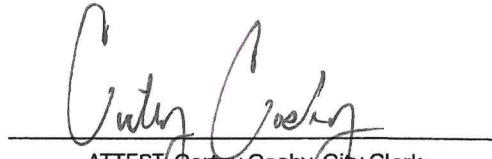
Council Member Taylor Davis stated that he is proud to be part of a council that can discuss and debate.

Council Member Wanda Olson stated that she is forming a committee to assist with the leash law and will need a volunteer. Council Member Wanda Olson also stated that she is in no way against any dog, but something needs to be done to prevent further issues. Citizen Rhonda Horack stated that she would love to be a part of the committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion was made by Council Member Randy Dunn, seconded by Council Member Dwight Sherer to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.


D'Anna Browning, Mayor


ATTEST, Cortny Cosby, City Clerk

2025 Street Paving
City of Marion, KY

Street	Description (Begin/End)	Entire Width or Trench Repair?	Approx. Length (feet)	Approx. Width (feet)	Pavement Thickness (inches)	Approx. Tons	(\$/Ton Estimate)	Price to Repave w/o Milling (\$)
South Blackburn Street	From US60 to Country Club Ent.	Entire Width	1200	18	1.5	198	\$130.00	\$25,740.00
Freewill Street	Moore to S. Main Street	Entire Width	400	12	1.5	44	\$130.00	\$5,720.00
West Carlisle Street	Court to S. Weldon	Entire Width	700	22	1.5	141	\$130.00	\$18,351.67
North College Street	First Street to Second Street	Entire Width	460	22	1.5	93	\$130.00	\$12,059.67
East Elm Street	S. Main to S. College Street	Entire Width	460	18	1.5	76	\$130.00	\$9,867.00
East Mound Park	N. Main to N. College Street	Entire Width	370	28	1.5	95	\$130.00	\$12,345.67
Cherry Street / Rochester St.	Intersection only	Intersection	50	30	1.5	14	\$130.00	\$1,787.50
Keeling Street	Travis to Bridwell Loop	Entire Width	250	18	1.5	41	\$130.00	\$5,362.50
Travis Street	Keeling to N. Yandell Street	Entire Width	280	20	1.5	51	\$130.00	\$6,673.33
Moore Street	US60 to Freewill Street	Entire Width	960	22	1.5	194	\$130.00	\$25,168.00
					TOTAL	947		\$123,075.33
HOLD OFF								
Harmon Drive	N. Main to Summit to Hillcrest, to Whip.	Entire Width	3000	18	1.5	495	\$130.00	\$64,350.00
North Maple Street	W. Bellville to Travis Street	Entire Width	1250	24	1.5	275	\$130.00	\$35,750.00
Poplar Street	N. Main to N. Maple Street	Entire Width	1100	24	1.5	242	\$130.00	\$31,460.00
West Elm Street	N. Main to S. Weldon	Entire Width	420	22	1.5	85	\$130.00	\$11,011.00
West Depot Street	Entire Length (if budget allows)	Entire Width	2100	20	1.5	385	\$130.00	\$50,050.00
Chapel Hill Road	From US 641 about 60 feet	Entire Width	60	24	1.5	13	\$130.00	\$1,716.00
Chapel Hill Road	Hickory Hills to Arleen	Entire Width	650	22	1.5	131	\$130.00	\$17,040.83
Chapel Hill Road	683 Chapel Hill to Tyler Mnf. South Ent.	Entire Width	1300	22	1.5	262	\$130.00	\$34,081.67
Chapel Hill Road	4-Way Stop to City Limit Sign (south)	Entire Width	570	22	1.5	115	\$130.00	\$14,943.50
					TOTAL	1508		\$260,403.00