

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, June 16, 2025, at 5:00 P.M**

The Marion City Council met in regular session on June 16, 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: Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Cortny Cosby, Jerry Parker, Greg Tabor, Tony Jackson, Jeff Black, Anna Baker and Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer.

Public Comments

Mayor Browning stated that the water crisis is not over and added that in three to four years the city will be connected to Crittenden-Livingston water system. Mayor Browning commended Water Treatment Plant Operator Jeff Black for all his hard work and dedication. Mayor Browning stated that citizens can now receive text message alerts by registering on our web portal and selecting to opt for text message notifications, anyone who is not able to register may call City Hall and request to be put on the call notification list.

Laura Wood, APRN and Kaitlin Loveless, APRN began a discussion on Kratom, also known as "gas station heroin". Laura Wood stated that Kratom is not FDA regulated and added that several states, excluding Kentucky, have banned Kratom. Kaitlin Loveless stated that Kratom will not show on a standard blood panel, you must know what you are looking for. Council Member Dwight Sherer asked what the side effects were and asked if this had been presented to legislation. Kaitlin Loveless responded that it affects everyone differently, but side effects can include addiction, withdrawal, nausea, liver and kidney damage, etc., and added that in 2016 there was an attempt to make Kratom a schedule one drug, but that attempt failed due to the amount of people pro Kratom. Laura Wood stated that she would like to get the word out, educate schools, parents, legislation and then the government. Kaitlin Loveless stated that Kratom is marketed as a seemingly harmless herb. Mayor Browning stated that these are good people buying Kratom at a local gas station, not your textbook addicts. Kaitlin Loveless stated that there were simply not enough resources out there to support mental health awareness.

Citizen Rick Kemp stated that he would like a copy of the budget. Mayor Browning provided a copy of ORDINANCE NO. 25-09.

Citizen Sharon Bockman stated that she was thankful for the text alerts and asked if Cole Springs would be building a privacy fence. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that Cole Springs will be building a privacy fence. Citizen Sharon Bockman asked if it was possible to request that the privacy fence be expedited. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that she would get in touch with Cole Springs.

Mayor Browning stated that during daytime hours if you have an animal related issued, you will need to call Devin Brewer with the Crittenden County animal control. Council Member Nikki Conger asked if the Marion Police Department would be enforcing leash laws. Officer Jerry Parker requested that citizens begin by calling the dispatch center, so that the situation can be on record. Officer Jerry Parker added that you may also want to take a photo or video, in case the dog is not still there when help arrives. Council Member Bobby Belt agreed that taking a photo would be helpful to avoid false claims.

Mayor Browning began a discussion about the flooding in Hickory Hills that she explained had been an issue for 12 years. Mayor Browning stated that she had reached out to Alan Robinson at Eclipse Engineers, PLLC, she was still not seeing the progress she would like. Mayor Browning stated that the conditions were already bad and then questioned what had made conditions so much worse. As a resident of Hickory Hills, Officer Parker stated that it seemed to have gotten worse after Siemen's paved their parking lot. Vicky Parker is a citizen of Marion and wife of Officer Jerry Parker, who stated that they spent two hours shoveling gravel out of the road after the recent rainstorm. Mayor Browning stated that there were a few other areas that needed attention as well: Clark Street where a home has redirected water and now flooding neighboring yards, Main Street by Marion and Company where the storm drain was a mess, possibly due to the shallow creek and Second Street where it meets North College. Citizen Ric Carder stated that the landowner who created those issues should be held responsible for the repairs. Mayor Browning stated that she was trying to determine who was responsible. Citizen Mike Harris of 302 W Carlisle Street stated that the city has yet to correct his flooding issue. Citizen Mike Harris stated that the project manager Dan Wood told him that the project was complete and that the culvert needs to be replaced. Citizen Mike Harris stated that Friday, June 13, 2025, his home was flooded during the rainstorm. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that she was under the impression that another catch basin was to be installed. Citizen Mike Harris stated that he was told by the previous Head of Maintenance Garry Gerard that the city had no intention of completing repairs. Citizen Mike Harris asked that the city, please follow up

and continue with repairs. Citizen Paul Beard stated that Leland Avenue was still flooding. Citizen Ric Carder stated that he believed that some of the flooding was related to the height of the asphalt.

General Government

A motion to approve the minutes of the special called meetings for both May 27, 2025, and June 11, 2025, was made by Council Member Randy Dunn, seconded by council member Wanda Olson. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the second reading of Ordinance No. 25-09 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 07/01/2025 THROUGH 06/30/2026 BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT. A Motion to approve Ordinance No. 25-09 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 07/01/2025 THROUGH 06/30/2026 BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT was made by Council Member Wanda Olson, 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. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the second reading of Ordinance No. 25-10 AN ORDINANCE 25-10 AMENDING THE PAY PLAN FOR CLASSIFIED CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED OFFICIALS. A motion to approve Ordinance No. 25-10 AN ORDINANCE 25-10 AMENDING THE PAY PLAN FOR CLASSIFIED CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED OFFICIALS made by Council Member Taylor Davis, seconded by Council Member Nikki Conger. Roll call: Randy Dunn; yes, Wanda Olson; yes, Taylor Davis; yes, Dwight Sherer; yes, Bobby Belt; yes, Nikki Conger; yes. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the first reading of Ordinance No. 25-11 AN ORDINANCE AMDENDING 90.99 PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 90 ANIMALS. Council Member Wanda Olson sponsored Ordinance No. 25-11 AN ORDINANCE AMDENDING 90.99 PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 90 ANIMALS.

Mayor Browning presented Resolution 25-05, a resolution where the Department of Highways agrees to accept primary ownership and all maintenance responsibilities for Industrial Drive, Chapel Hill Road and Country Club Drive. Motion to approve Resolution 25-05 made by Council Member Bobby Belt, seconded by Council Member Wanda Olson. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning presented consideration for the council to approve the bid for new water meters. Alan Robinson from Eclipse Engineer's LLC recommended that the City of Marion award the contract to Core and Main, LP. Motion to approve the bid placed by Core and Main, LP for the new water meters made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning stated that Code Enforcement Officer Tanya Scholtz was out sick and would not be here to provide an update. Mayor Browning stated that our new Code Enforcement Officer Tanya Scholtz was doing a great job and added that she appreciated Council Members Wanda Olson and Nikki Conger for their hard work in that area as well.

Other Business

Council Member Bobby Belt asked for an update on the closure of Walker Street near the food bank. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that our FEMA claim for Walker Street was rejected and stated that she will be appealing the claim.

Council Member Randy Dunn asked when the city would begin blacktopping. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that this project will be up for bid in the upcoming Crittenden Press. Mayor Browning asked if the streets would be listed in the newspaper, City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that the streets to be blacktopped would be listed in the Crittenden Press.

Mayor Browning stated that she was confident that the boil water advisory would be lifted the following day.

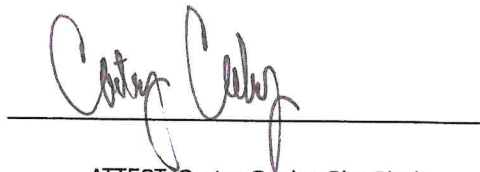
Council Member Bobby Belt stated that if anyone within city limits was using an ice maker, they would need to flush at least a gallon of water through the system and throw away the old ice.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion was made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.



D'Anna Browning, Mayor



ATTEST: Cortny Cosby, City Clerk