

**Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, July 21, 2025, at 5:00 P.M**

The Marion City Council met in regular session on July 21, 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, Jeff Black, Red Howton, Barbara Browning, Tanya Byers and Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer.

Public Comments

No comments from the public.

General Government

A motion was made by Council Member Randy Dunn, seconded by Council Member Wanda Olson to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 16, 2025. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the second reading of Ordinance No 25-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING § 90.99 PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 90 ANIMALS. Motion to approve Ordinance No 25-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING § 90.99 PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 90 ANIMALS 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 first reading of Ordinance No 25-12 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 25-10 THE PAY PLAN FOR CLASSIFIED CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED OFFICIALS AND SETTING COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND ADOPTING THE PAY PLAN FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS FOR THE SAME FISCAL YEAR. Mayor Browning stated that this amendment was to allow for a full time Code Enforcement/ Planning and Zoning Officer, Tanya Byers. Council Member Dwight Sherer sponsored ORDINANCE No 25-12 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 25-10 THE PAY PLAN FOR CLASSIFIED CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED OFFICIALS AND SETTING COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND ADOPTING THE PAY PLAN FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS FOR THE SAME FISCAL YEAR.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the first reading of Ordinance No 25-13 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO STREET-LEGAL SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES. Council Member Nikki Conger stated that she would like to see stipulations similar to golf carts, limiting use in certain areas at specific times. Mayor Browning asked if the specified vehicle would need to be licensed. Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer stated yes and added the council can prohibit use on certain streets. Mayor Browning asked Chief Bobby West if the ordinance includes the mini truck seen at Par 4 Plastics. Chief Bobby West was unsure and suggested speaking to the County Clerk Daryl Tabor. Council Member Wanda Olson sponsored Ordinance No 25-13 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO STREET-LEGAL SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the first reading of Ordinance 25-14 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §71.65 GOLF CART REGULATIONS. Council Member Taylor Davis asked if the ordinance refers to Federal standards for seatbelts. Council Member Wanda Olson suggested a lap belt. Council Member Nikki Conger sponsored Ordinance 25-14 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §71.65 GOLF CART REGULATIONS.

Mayor Browning requested consideration for the council to approve moving Council Member Taylor Davis from council representative for Tourism to council representative for the Fire Department, also introducing Council Member Nikki Conger as council representative for Tourism. Motion to approve Council Member Nikki Conger as council representative for Tourism and Council Member Taylor Davis as council representative for the Marion Fire Department made by Council Member Bobby Belt, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield provided a bid update on the WWATERS Grant Water meter installation and road paving. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that Repair and Service Solutions LLC was the only bid for meter installation, and Rogers Group, Inc. was the only bid for road paving. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield added that we will be applying for

emergency funding. Council Member Wanda Olson stated that Citizen Ronnie Riley requested that we do not go over the concrete that he paid for privately. Motion to accept the bid submitted by Repair and Service Solutions, LLC for the water meter installation and the bid submitted by Rogers Group, Inc. for the street paving list made by Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Taylor Davis. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated to Volunteer Fireman Donnie Arflack that she was working on a narrative with engineer Alan Robinson in the WWATERS Grant to apply for 50 more hydrants during phase two. Volunteer Fireman Donnie Arflack asked if that would include installation. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated this does include installation of hydrants, and hopefully reflecting markers to display the flow rate.

Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor was not in attendance to provide an update; he was on vacation.

Mayor Browning recognized Water Plant Operator Thomas Mason for his retirement and Water Plant Operator Jeff Black for his 20 years of service.

Code Enforcement/ Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers provided an update, Code Enforcement received 29 new complaints and 7 of the 29 have been resolved, 42 noticed were mailed out this past week. Code Enforcement/ Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers stated that in the packet provided to the council they would see "hold" several times, meaning she did not issue a citation due to duplicate complaints or citizen was previously mailed a citation and still owes a balance. Mayor Browning stated that Code Enforcement/ Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers was handed a great deal of work and stated that she can see her progress. Code Enforcement/ Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers stated that the Code Enforcement Board would like to double fines, and possibly have the city oppose higher tax rates on abandoned houses. Council Member Nikki Conger questioned how that would be policed. Code Enforcement/ Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers stated that she would like to handle this within the city. Council Member Wanda Olson stated concerns about a home in Greenwood Heights that has 9 vehicles parked at their residence and questioned how many vehicles a resident can park on their property.

Other Business

Council Member Nikki Conger asked if there would be another round for the Hometown Hero banners. Mayor Browning responded yes, October 1, 2025, would be the deadline for Veterans Day banners and stated she would be meeting with Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor and Tourism Director Michelle Edwards to order more brackets. Council Member Nikki Conger had questions about the privacy fence that was going to be between Cole Springs and the surrounding neighborhood. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that the fence would be 6 foot high and extend to the very beginning of the neighborhood, and added the parts were already ordered. Council Member Nikki Conger asked if paperwork was filed on an insurance claim for the most recent house fire in town. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield responded no. Council Member Nikki Conger requested that Fire Chief Red Howton submit the necessary documents. Fire Chief Red Howton responded that the paperwork is in progress. Council Member Nikki Conger stated that she likes Code Enforcement/ Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers and would like to set her up for success. Council Member Nikki Conger stated that she was not impressed with the Code Board meetings, and stated that this needs to be addressed, and advised possibly restructuring or reeducating the board.

Council Member Bobby Belt stated that he would like to see the city get with Judge Executive Perry Newcom about a possible free dump day for brush only and stated that he would gladly volunteer at the County Brush yard off Bridwell Loop for a free public day. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield responded that the EPA would not allow it unless the area experiences severe weather conditions and a declaration was made by the governor. Council Member Bobby Belt stated that with new business coming to the 4-way stop, we may need to reassess the traffic situation. Mayor Browning stated that the stop signs at the 4-way stop on highway 60 is placed farther back due to semis hitting the utility pole several times.

Council Member Dwight Sherer stated that he attended the Airport Board meeting last week and they have applied for more grants in hopes of adding a new parallel landing strip.

Council Member Wanda Olson asked City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield if the backhoe was repaired in order to make repairs on Walker Street and stated the road closure sign had been moved. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that the cylinder for the backhoe was repaired and stated that FEMA took zero responsibility for the storm damage. City Administrator Diane Ford-

Benningfield also gave a shout out to Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor for keeping an eye on this as well as the Marion Police Department. Council Member Wanda Olson also gave a shout out to the city maintenance team.

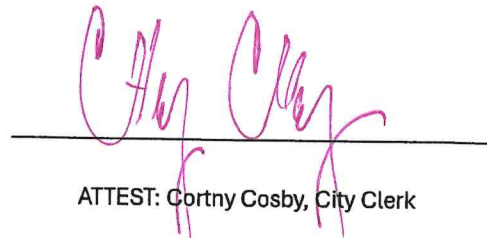
Council Member Randy Dunn stated that there is a house falling in on West Elm Street between Blackburn Street and Weldon. Council Member Randy Dunn stated that on South Main Street and Chapel Hill the grass was so tall visibility is minimum. Council Member Randy Dunn stated that between True Value and Tobin's Motel the grass line is very high and added that someone on Chapel Hill has horses on their property.

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 6:08 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D'Anna Browning", written over a horizontal line.

D'Anna Browning, MAYOR

A handwritten signature in pink ink, appearing to read "Cortny Cosby", written over a horizontal line.

ATTEST: Cortny Cosby, City Clerk