

Meeting of the Marion City Council
Monday, September 15, 2025, at 5:00 P.M

The Marion City Council met in regular session on September 15, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council Member present were as follows: Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Taylor Davis, Dwight Sherer, Bobby Belt and Nikki Meeks. City Employees in attendance were as follows: Chief Bobby West, Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Cortny Cosby, Red Howton, Jeff Black, Greg Tabor, Tanya Byers and Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer.

Public Comments

No public comments.

General Government

Mayor Browning updated two weeks ago the Department of Water evaluated our water levels at Lake George and stated we have about 6 weeks of water and added we cannot go below the siphon level. Mayor Browning stated that Bacon Farmer & Workman said we had 60 days of water and that did not factor in evaporation. Mayor Browning stated we are buying water from Crittenden Livingston Water District at a maximum of 15 gallons per minute, ideally this would have been 100 gallons per minute, but they cannot do it. Mayor Browning added that we have hired Reveal to tackle our two biggest leaks, one located on West Bellville and the other located on East Bellville. Mayor Browning stated Reveal also located 20 other small leaks and added that we are currently at 23-27% water loss, much better than our previous 50%. Mayor Browning stated that we need to clean two basins but that would be considerable water loss, she added that flushing lines due to smelly or discolored water was also considered a water loss, especially when it could be coming from the customers' pipes.

Mayor Browning stated that the EPA released a nationwide insert for the upcoming water bills, alerting customers to give City Hall a call if they suspect lead or copper in their lines. Mayor Browning also stated that City Clerk Cortny Cosby would be adding a link to the water bills that takes them directly to the website with frequently asked questions.

A motion was made by Council Member Randy Dunn, seconded by Council Member Wanda Olson to approve the minutes and Tax Levy Forum of the special called meeting on August 27, 2025. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the first reading of Ordinance 25-15 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR OF 2025 CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY. Council Member Dwight Sherer sponsored Ordinance 25-15 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR OF 2025 CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the first reading of Ordinance 25-16 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §90.05 KEEPING HOGS. Mayor Browning asked if someone who currently had livestock would be grandfathered in. Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer stated no one would be grandfathered in. Council Member Bobby Belt stated that he did not agree with making someone get rid of their horses. Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer stated that the council would have the ability to grant permission. Council Member Nikki Meeks stated that she did not want to see farm animals in town and requested that we stop this in the early stages. Council Member Wanda Olson agreed. Council Member Bobby Belt asked about the animals on Rochester Street and Cherry Street. Council Member Wanda Olson stated that the area mentioned was zoned agricultural. Council Member Dwight Sherer stated he was concerned about hogs being kept in homes. Council Member Taylor Davis stated that it could always be brought before the council. Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer agreed.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the first reading of Ordinance 25-17 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §37.21 ORDINANCE FINE SCHEDULE. Mayor Browning stated the amendment will give the ordinance some teeth and that was a long time coming. Council Member Taylor Davis questioned Part C. Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer stated the amendment changed court cost from \$35.00 to \$185.00. Council Member Dwight Sherer sponsored Ordinance 25-17 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §37.21 ORDINANCE FINE SCHEDULE.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield provided an update on Kentucky Emergency Management reimbursements and stated the August KYEM reimbursement should have arrived during the last fiscal year into the miscellaneous expense account along with all the

other KYEM reimbursements. Instead, the reimbursement arrived in this fiscal year. The reimbursement was deposited into the general fund but needs to be in the water and environmental fee fund. City Administrator Diane Ford Benningfield added that is not a budgeted item and would exceed the general fund administration expenditure fund therefore we need to transfer the funds. A motion was made by Council Member Taylor Davis, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn to approve moving the August KYEM reimbursement from the General Fund to the Water and Environmental Fund. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning requested consideration from the council to surplus a Marion Police Department vehicle, white 2011 Dodge Charger VIN number 2B3CL1CG2BH557530 with a mileage of 79,354. A motion to surplus the MPD white 2011 Dodge Charger VIN number 2B3CL1CG2BH557530 with a mileage of 79,354 was made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Bobby Belt. All present members voted yes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Browning recommended Charlie Day of First United Bank to the vacant seat once held by Kayla Maxfield on the Tourism Board. Mayor Browning recommended extending the appointment through November 1, 2028. Motion was made by Council Member Randy Dunn, seconded by Council Member Wanda Olson to appoint Charlie Day to the vacant seat on the Tourism Board. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning requested consideration from the council to surplus engine number 4 from the Marion Fire Department. The MFD provided the council with a letter outlining the reasons for this request. Mayor Browning also stated she would like to allocate up to \$50,000 towards the purchase of a used engine that is not as old and has more safety features. Crittenden County Rescue Squad Chief Donnie Arflack stated there is already a potential buyer for engine number 4. Council Member Dwight Sherer stated he agreed with the allocation but requested an explanation of where the \$50,000 was coming from strictly for transparency. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated excess was carried over into this year but cannot be used for transportation, community members have volunteered to transport. Council Member Bobby Belt stated he agreed a new truck is needed and asked the MFD if they had a truck in mind for purchase. Volunteer Fireman Evan Cruce stated there was not a specific truck in mind, MFD did not want to begin shopping until funding was approved. Mayor Browning requested an update on the fire hydrant replacements. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated it was still moving forward, and added she requested a reevaluation from FEMA, which was granted and hoped to get some assistance after the next site visit. Motion was made by Council Member Nikki Meeks, seconded by Council Member Wanda Olson to surplus engine number 4 and allocate \$50,000 towards the purchase of a used engine.

Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers provided an update stating she had 39 working complaints, 74 resolved since April, 13 notices of violation in August and 16 citations served totaling \$4,460. Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers stated September 22, 2025, the Code Enforcement Board did not have a quorum, so the meeting was to be rescheduled. Mayor Browning asked about the property at 723 E Depot. Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers stated that was appealed, the property owner had a land contract, the landowner has been cited as well as the individual under land contract. Mayor Browning stated she can see where long-standing issues were being resolved. Council Member Wanda Olson mentioned the chickens on Moore St. Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning Officer Tanya Byers stated she has visited the property several times no one has answered the door; a notice has been mailed.

Maintenance supervisor Greg Tabor updated and stated Reveal recorded where they heard 24 locations with leaks, 7 were found and repaired. Maintenance supervisor Greg Tabor stated he was actively trying to lock in a date with Roger's Group. Mayor Browning advised Maintenance supervisor Greg Tabor to call The Roger's Group daily.

Other Business

Council Member Bobby Belt stated he physically tried to stop a red vehicle traveling very fast down Harmon Dr in Greenwood Heights. Council Member Bobby Belt asked Chief Bobby West if there was a solution. Chief Bobby West offered extra patrol in the area and suggested the individual sign a complaint form. Council Member Nikki Meeks asked if that was possible to sign today. Chief Bobby West replied yes. Council Member Bobby Belt stated he was concerned about needing crosswalks from Morningside Dr to Creekside Apartments. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated she would reach out to the State Highway Department to see if that was a possibility.

Council Member Dwight Sherer asked for an update on the streetlights. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield replied the project is mostly complete.

Council Member Taylor Davis stated the no parking sign needed to be replaced on West Elm Street. Council Member Dwight Sherer asked what the process would be to replace a painted stop sign. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield responded she had one in the works where the graffiti was done.

Council Member Wanda Olson asked for an update on the new meters. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated the meters would be delivered and stored in a secure area at the new Wastewater Treatment Plant.

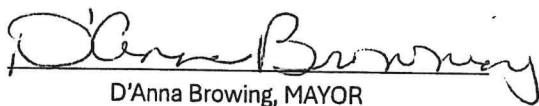
Mayor Browning addresses rumors by stating there was not one grant available that will put water in the reservoir.

Council Member Randy Dunn asked for an update on the blacktopping. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated Maintenance Supervisor Greg Tabor would be looking into that. Council Member Wanda Olson reminded everyone of the request previously made not to pave over pavement personally paid for by a resident on Free Will Street. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield added that beginning now unless it is an emergency, we would need a permit to cut into a state road, that is a procedure required by the State Highway Department.

Mayor Browning stated there would be a special called meeting Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the council a motion was made by Council Member Bobby Belt, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM.


D'Anna Browning, MAYOR


ATTEST: Cortny Cosby, CITY CLERK