

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 AT 5:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilman Donny Gerald

Councilman Fred Gause

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator

City Treasurer Patricia Brown

City Clerk Lakesha Shannon

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. WORKSHOP FOR PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 – 2027

➤ **Hospitality Tax Budget**

The 2026-2027 proposed Hospitality Tax Budget is \$633,325.00, and the following new projects have been included:

- \$10,000.00 for safety equipment for special events
- \$10,000.00 for converting the tennis lights to LED
- \$200,000.00 to replace the Opera House windows

The Capital Sales Tax item on the November 2026 ballot will include a project to completely rehab the Opera House, which will include the window replacement if approved.

➤ **Stormwater Budget**

The proposed 2026-2027 Stormwater Budget is \$250,000.00. This budget is funded by a monthly \$5.00 residential and \$6.00 commercial fee collected on all water meters. This budget funds the maintenance and supplies for the public works vacuum truck, and leaf truck which helps to keep the storm drains clean in the city, as well as the operator salary.

➤ **General Fund Budget**

The 2026-2027 proposed General Fund Budget is balanced at \$8.3 million, with an \$546,524.00 fund balance being used to balance the budget which will include:

- 3% cost of living raise for staff
- 3 mill tax increase – will generate \$51,000.00 additional revenue
- \$1.00 increase to residential roll out carts – will generate \$34,000.00 additional revenue
- 4% increase to commercial dumpsters – will generate \$15,400.00 in additional revenue

Mayor Brady noted that the fuel surcharge is currently averaging \$15,000.00 - \$18,000.00 per month, which is a significant increase. Changes may be considered within the public works department to help conserve fuel. Some additional increases include the following:

- 4% Duke Energy
- 6% Property Insurance increase
- \$200,000.00 for new fire truck payments

Mayor Brady explained that upgrades are needed to the police department payment software system. The proposed new system, Patrol Logic, will cost \$5,000.00 for a one-time conversion fee, and \$13,000.00 per year. Mayor Brady recommended that \$18,500.00 be budgeted for the police department software

and \$40,000.00 for 2026 employee Christmas bonuses. This would bring the proposed withdrawal from the general fund budget to \$605,024.00.

3. SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held on June 30, 2026 at 5:30 pm to allow for public comments on the 2026-2027 budget ordinances.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, ***a motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, and seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.***

Mayor Ashley Brady

Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk