

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, MACH 10, 2026 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Fred Gause
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt
Councilman Donny Gerald	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

Councilman Michael Baker was not in attendance

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	City Attorney James Brogdon
City Treasurer Patricia Brown	Police Chief Tony Flowers
City Clerk Lakesha Shannon	

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Brady led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed all citizens and guest.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

➤ Regular City Council Meeting – February 10, 2026

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

5. JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mayor Brady named City Clerk Lakesha Shannon and Recreation Director Chasity Samuels as the February Employees of the Month. He thanked

them for all their hard work in organizing and hosting the City of Marion Black History Program.

6. PRESENTATION FROM PEE DEE COALITION – MRS. DANYELL ROGERS

Mrs. Danyell Rogers with Pee Dee Coalition provided some statistics of domestic violence and sexual assault in Marion County. She also shared the April awareness events Pee Dee Coalition will be hosting throughout Marion County. Mrs. Rogers thanked council for their continued support.

7. PROGRESS UPDATE FROM PDRTA – MR. DON STRICKLAND

Executive Director of PDRTA Don Strickland shared a presentation on the progress of their routes in Marion County. Their services have increased since last year as they continue to provide rides to citizens for work and medical appointments. He provided statistical information of the number of riders and routes. He noted that the new bus shelters will provide Wi-Fi access and a covered space that could be utilized by students during inclement weather. He stated that most of their funding comes from local government, and they are requesting \$30,000 in funding from the City of Marion to support their services for the upcoming budget year. Mr. Strickland shared that they have an app that allows riders to request a route and receive real time route updates.

8. APPOINT BYRON BECK TO CAPITAL SALES TAX COMMISSION

A motion was made by Mayor Ashley Brady, seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to re-appoint Chairman Byron Beck to the Capital Sales tax Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **2ND READING ORDINANCE #26-02 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE SPECIAL REAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS FOR REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Mayor Brady stated that this ordinance also referred to as The Baily Bill, allows for a 5- or 10-year period break on property taxes for those who purchase investment property in the downtown historic district.

Investments of \$500,000 - \$999,999 will receive a 5-year tax break, and investments over \$1 million will receive a 10-year tax break. ***A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #26-02 An Ordinance to Approve Special Real Property Tax Assessments for Rehabilitated Historic Properties. The motion passed unanimously.***

10. **RESOLUTION FOR AERIAL FIRE TRUCK LOOSE EQUIPMENT AND FEES**

Mayor Brady stated that the city has purchased a new ladder truck and will be selling the old ladder truck to City of Dillon for \$100,000.00. The new truck will require some new loose equipment and will have some fees in the amount of \$50,000.00. ***A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to approve the Resolution for Aerial Fire Truck Loose Equipment and Fees. The motion passed unanimously.***

11. **RESOLUTION FOR ADJUSTMENT TO LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PEE DEE FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK**

Mayor Brady stated that the City received a \$300,000.00 loan from Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank towards the purchase of a new fire engine truck, and \$16,208.00 will be used to purchase loose equipment. ***A motion was made***

by Mayor pro Tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to a Resolution for Adjustment to Lease Purchase Agreement with Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank. The motion passed unanimously.

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Alan Ammons provided an update on the Stormwater Outfall Project on Green Street. He noted that all the final documents have been approved and the project should start within the next 30 days. A \$100,000 grant was awarded to the City of Marion from Congressman Russell Frye's office for shot detection technology equipment. Chief Tony Flowers has been in contact with the vendor to discuss options for purchasing the equipment. Mr. Ammons stated several 800 radios with the police department are outdated and need to be replaced. A request for appropriations has been submitted to fund the replacement radios.

13. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

14. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady

Mayor Brady congratulated all the award recipients that were honored at the City of Marion Black History Month Program, and thanked Lakesha and Chasity for their work in organizing the program. He commented that the recent Chili Cookoff event hosted by HMRA was a huge success and attracted many people to the downtown area. The recreation departments baseball and softball season will begin soon, and a date will be scheduled for the dedication of the Billy Bullard Batting /Pitching Center at the old Pepsi building.

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilman Baker was not in attendance.

Councilman Fred Gause

Councilman Gause thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and thanked Lakesha and Chasity for their work with the Black History Month Program. He thanked all city departments for all they do.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Atkinson had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt commented that this is allergy season and encouraged citizens to be careful and take care of themselves.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

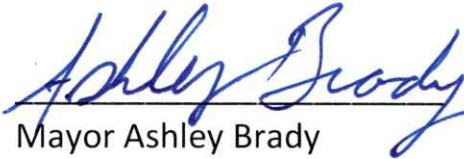
Councilwoman Lewis stated that she enjoyed the recent Chili Cookoff and Black History Month Program in which she received a lot of positive feedback. She noted that she is happy to hear about the PDRTA shelters that will allow covering for students during inclement. She stated that gun violence awareness must continue, and shared that a young lady lost her life to gun violence in Marion County last week.

Councilman Donny Gerald

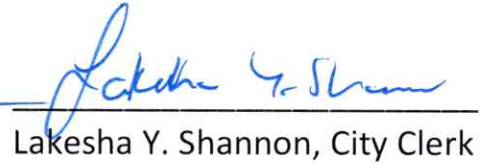
Councilman Gerald commented on the success of the Black History Month Program and noted that it was bigger and better than last year. He stated that he really enjoyed the program, and it was great learning about the accomplishments of the award recipients.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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



Mayor Ashley Brady



Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk