

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 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	

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. He commented that the Fire Department Push-In Ceremony before the meeting was a huge success.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

➤ Regular City Council Meeting – March 10, 2026

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

5. MARCH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mayor Brady named Jabari Swinney with the Public Works Department as the March Employee of the Month. He thanked Jabari for his hard work and all he does to help keep the city clean.

6. AWARDS PRESENTATION – RECREATION DEPARTMENT

This presentation will be postponed until the June 2026 City Council Meeting.

7. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Brady recommended that the following members be reappointed to the Marion Housing Authority Committee: Scott Collins, Latonia Graves, Lisa Seabrook, Sally Davis and Rocki Flowers.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to reappoint the members to the Housing Authority Committee as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

8. 1ST READING ORDINANCE #26-03 AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE PROPERTY

A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #26-03 An Ordinance to Rezone Property. Councilman Donny Gerald recused himself from voting and discussion due to a vested interest in the property (See attached). The motion passed.

9. SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 26-03

A public hearing will be held on May 12, 2026 at 6:15 PM to allow for public comments on Ordinance #26-03.

10. APPROVE BID:

➤ HVAC Project – Fire Station 15

Mayor Brady stated that the HVAC system at the City of Marion Fire Station 15 has to be replaced. Bids were solicited and 4 firms provided a bid. Carolina Heat & Cooling submitted the lowest bid at \$6,800.00. Following discussion, ***motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the bid of \$6,800.00 from Carolina Heating & Cooling for the HVAC Project at Fire Station 15. The motion passed unanimously.***

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Alan Ammons stated that 48 nuisance letters have been sent out so far to address overgrown grass throughout the city. Letters are also being sent out to address abandoned cars. Paving projects are ongoing throughout the city, and he is working with CTC to request funds to complete more paving and sidewalk projects. The bridge replacement project on Highway 76 at Catfish Creek is ongoing and on schedule for the proposed competition date of November 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt asked for an update on the recent gun store robbery on Main Street, and suggested that police officers patrol the area more and do courtesy door checks for businesses after hours. The cleaning of Catfish Creek has been delayed until the water recedes due to it being inaccessible for equipment to enter.

12. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

13. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady

Mayor Brady stated that construction has begun on the Jones Avenue Round-a-Bout Project and it is scheduled to be completed in a year if weather permits. He commended the Public Works department for doing an awesome job beautifying the city for the Easter holiday. Opening Day for the City of Marion Recreation Department's baseball and softball season will be April 18 at 10:30 AM following the dedication ceremony of the Billy Bullard Batting/Pitching Facility which will be held at 10:00 AM.

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilman Baker had no comments.

Councilman Fred Gause

Councilman Gause stated that he really enjoyed the Fire Department Push-In Ceremony.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Atkinson stated that he also enjoyed the Fire Department Push-In Ceremony.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt echoed the comments on the Fire Department Push-In Ceremony. He noted that he enjoyed seeing the retired fireman in attendance participating in the ceremony. He is continuing to pray for our country.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

Councilwoman Lewis reflected on the words Unity & Growth and stated that this is essential to a productive and prosperous city. She too enjoyed the Fire Department Push-In Ceremony and stated that she's had the

opportunity to get on the new truck. Today is Councilwoman Lewis' 10-year anniversary on city council.

Councilman Donny Gerald

Councilman Gerald thanked the fireman for all they do, and stated that he enjoyed the Push-In Ceremony as well. He commented that as a small town, the City of Marion is fortunate to be able to purchase such a fire truck when other small cities are struggling financially. He thanked the Marion Police Department for all the great things they are doing.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter – Police Department, Contractual Matter, and Economic Development. The motion carried unanimously.

15. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, and seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to return from Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Brady stated that there was no action taken in executive session.

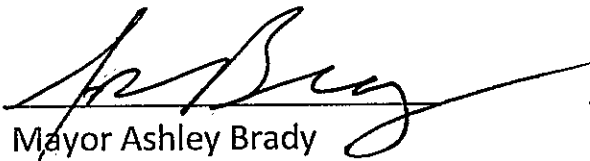
A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to place a moratorium on any new development of multi-family homes for 1-year to allow time for the City of Marion to work on its Comprehension Plan. Mayor Pro Tem Hunt asked if consideration would be made to allow a housing developer to come in and build during this time if they meet the right criteria. Attorney James Brogdon stated that consideration could be made on a case by case basis. Following discussion,

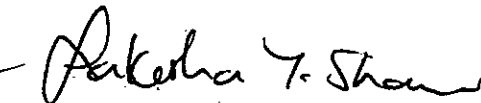
Councilman Fred Gause amended his motion to add that council would have the ability to change the 1-year time limit as needed on a case by case basis, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to allow the Mayor and City Administrator authority to solicit bids to sell or remove the firing range building behind the old Sara Lee Hosiery. The motion passed unanimously.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.


Mayor Ashley Brady


Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Donny Gerald

Meeting Date: April 14, 2026

Agenda Item: 8 Section _____ Number: _____

Topic: Ordinance #26-03 An Ordinance
to Rezone Property on Pine Street

The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37.) A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

Justification to Recuse:

_____ Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

☒ Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

_____ Other: _____

Date: 4/14/2026 
Member

Approved by Parliamentarian: 