

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, FEBUARY 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 Michael Baker	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Donny Gerald	

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 – January 13, 2026
- Special City Council Meeting – January 20, 2026

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting, and the January 20, 2026 Special City Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

5. JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mayor Brady named the entire staff of City of Marion employees as the January Employee of the Month. He thanked everyone for going above and beyond during the recent winter storms to keep the citizens safe, and noted that an appreciation luncheon will be provided in the near future.

6. **ANNUAL UPDATE FROM HMRA – KELLY PAGE:**

Ms. Page was not in attendance.

7. **AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH PROCLAMATION**

A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve the annual American Red Cross Month Proclamation for 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **APPROVE MARION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mayor Brady stated that the economic development consultants presented the final strategic plan for Main Street Marion to council during a special meeting on January 20, 2026. This project will be funded through the SC Department of Commerce. *A motion was made by Councilman Donny Gerald, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to approve the Marion Economic Development Strategic Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*

9. **2ND READING ORDINANCE #26-01 An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of a Lease Purchase Agreement in an amount Not Exceeding \$1,800,000 Relating to the Purchase of a Fire Truck and Payment of Related Costs for City of Marion, Authorizing the Execution of Other Necessary Documents and Papers, and Other Matters Relating Thereto**

Mayor Brady stated that the City is purchasing a new fire department ladder truck. The purchase has been advertised for bid with various banks,

and the ladder truck is expected to be delivered in March 2026. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #26-01. The motion passed unanimously.*** Mayor Brady stated that a special ceremony will be held to spotlight the new truck.

10. 1ST READING ORDINANCE #26-02 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE SPECIAL REAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS FOR REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Mayor Brady stated that this ordinance is also referred to as The Baily Bill, and 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 1st Reading of Ordinance #26-02. The motion passed unanimously.***

11. NAMING OF INDOOR BATTING & PITCHING FACILITY

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the naming of the Indoor Batting/Pitching Facility as Coach Billy Bullard Center. The motion passed unanimously. Councilman Atkinson stated that Coach Bullard has been involved in baseball and coaching youth in the City of Marion for many years. Council agreed that this is a great honor and well deserved. Signage for the building will be determined.

12. SET DATE FOR 2026 CITY EMPLOYEE BANQUET

Council agreed to host the annual City Employee Banquet on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Woodhaven.

13. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

➤ MLK Day Committee

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

14. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Alan Ammons provided an update on current CTC projects. He noted that the project start was delayed due to winter weather; however, they will begin soon. He reminded council of the upcoming Economic Development 101 Training that will be held at Dry Dock Restaurant on February 11, 2026. He announced that 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.

15. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

16. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady

Mayor Brady thanked all city employees for their help in taking care of the city and citizens during the recent winter weather. He noted that warming shelters were opened for several days and a few residents stayed during that time. Mayor Brady reported that a large mural painting was donated to the City by TD Bank following the recent closing of their Marion location. It will be displayed in the city council chambers.

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilman Baker had no comments.

Councilman Fred Gause

Councilman Gause thanked everyone for attending and asked that they spread the word about the upcoming City of Marion's Black History Month.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Atkinson thanked all city employees for their hard work in keeping the citizens safe and the roads clear during the recent winter storms.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt thanked everyone for being in attendance, and expressed his thankfulness that the winter storm was not as bad as it could have been.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

Councilwoman Lewis shared her thoughts on health, wellness, and safety. She thanked everyone who assisted with the warming shelters by providing support and food. She gave a special thank you to the City fireman and policeman who went the extra mile to help and show compassion.

Councilman Donny Gerald

Councilman Gerald had no comments.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

➤ **MLK Day Committee**

Bishop Michael Blue and the MLK Day Committee was present to give honor and thanks to council for the City's support with the annual MLK Day events in the City of Marion. He noted that this event began in 2014 under the leadership of former Mayor Bobby Davis. Bishop Blue acknowledged

Mayor Ashley Brady's consistent commitment to this event as he attends the MLK Day Walk every year and supports in any capacity, especially providing the welcome each year on behalf of the City of Marion. He also commended Administrator Ammons for all his support in ensuring logistical resources for the event each year. Bishop Blue acknowledged and provided a certificate of achievement to the youngest attendee that walked during the MLK Day Walk event, Kayden Pee. Bishop Blue stated that the official name of this annual event is the MLK Unity Day.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

18. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, 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 to allow the Mayor and City Administrator to take the necessary steps to execute the necessary documents to allow for the sale of the 1997 KME ladder truck to the Tri County Park for the amount of \$95,000 - \$100,000. The motion carried unanimously.*

19. ADJOURNMENT

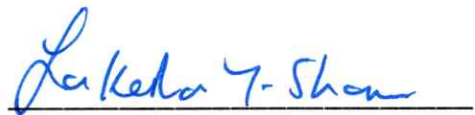
Hearing no further business, ***a motion was made by Councilman Donny Gerald, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.***

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Council met briefly to discuss and review the draft Black History Month Program outline.



Mayor Ashley Brady



Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk