

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 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 – December 9, 2025

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

5. DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mayor Brady named Josh Virzi with the City of Marion Fire Department as the January Employee of the Month. He thanked Josh for all he does to protect the citizens of Marion by fighting fires and saving lives.

6. ANNUAL UPDATE FROM HMRA – KELLY PAGE:

Ms. Page was sick and unable to attend the meeting. This item will be postponed until the February council meeting.

7. 1ST 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 down payment will be paid from the ARP budget, and the balance of \$1.8 million will have to be financed. Approval of this ordinance will allow the City to pursue options for soliciting financing bids for a bond. The truck will be delivered the end of February 2026. ***A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance #26-01. The motion passed unanimously.***

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Alan Ammons provided an update on the progress of the Catfish Canal Bridge Project. He noted that the bridge will be closed to traffic on January 16, and will remain closed for up to 240 days. Traffic closure and detour signs have been placed. The Main Street Sidewalk

Project is ongoing and should be completed in 2-3 weeks. The metal grates around the trees are being replaced with rubber mulch, and the grates will be advertised for sale on GovDeals. Mayor Pro Tem Hunt asked if there would be any additional lighting signals along Hwy 76 to warn drivers of the upcoming detour routes. Administrator Ammons stated that there are several signs already posted, but he will contact SCDOT to confirm. He stated that the City will also monitor the traffic to see if there are any issues once the closure goes into effect.

9. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

10. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady

Mayor Brady stated that the City of Marion Police Department completed the very first audit from the Criminal Justice Academy and passed it with a very high score. Chief Tony Flowers noted that this was the first 3-year audit of its kind in the state of SC, and he is very proud that it was passed with flying colors. He provided a detailed overview of the audit, and stated that it includes some tough standards. Mayor Brady reported that the security camera has been installed at the Green Street Sports Complex, and an additional camera will be installed at Grice's Recreation Center. The Marion MLK Day parade will be held on January 17, and the Annual MLK Day Walk will be held on January 19 followed by the program at Door of Hope Christian Church. Following approval at the January council meeting, the 3 doors have been blocked and painted at the Green Street Sports Complex and electrical work is ongoing. The Marion Garden Club has

donated \$5,000.00 towards a project to upkeep the 300 holly trees recently planted by the City at the sports complex. Mayor Brady thanked the City of Marion for all the support shown to him and his family during the recent passing of his mother.

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilman Baker reported that a leak continues on Euclid Street following recent repairs. Administrator Ammons will report the leak again to Grand Strand Water and Sewer.

Councilman Fred Gause

Councilman Fred Gause wished everyone a Happy New Year. He congratulated the police department on the success of their recent audit. He acknowledged Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and thanked Chief Flowers and his department for the tremendous job they are doing.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Atkinson asked about the new signs that have been installed on Spring Street. Mayor Brady stated that No Parking signs have been placed there by SCDOT.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that he is excited to serve the community another year with this great council.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

Councilwoman Lewis stated that the police department is doing a great job with the use of their mobile app. She encouraged everyone to be vigilant of their surroundings and things going on in their neighborhoods. If you see something suspicious, reach out to law enforcement.

Councilman Donny Gerald

Councilman Gerald asked if there was opportunity for funding to add lighting to the trees on Main Street. Mayor Brady stated that they recently met with Mindy Taylor from Duke Energy about adding supplemental lighting to the poles on Main Street. Councilman Gerald suggested adding lights to the actual trees that can be lit year-round. Administrator Ammons will research this matter.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

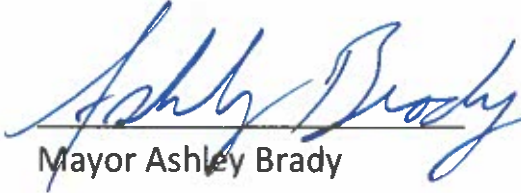
A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to go into Executive Session to discuss a Contractual Matter and Personnel Matter. The motion carried unanimously.

17. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

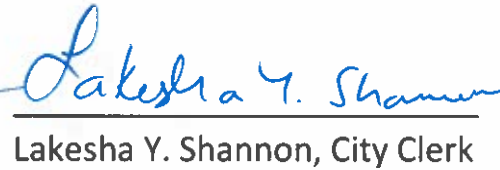
A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, and seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to return from Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Brady stated that there was no action taken in executive session. *A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt, and seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to allow Administrator Ammons and Mayor Brady to enter a contract with BIS Digital for professional services related to recording council meetings and posting on various platforms for the amount of \$4,618.93 for a period of one year. The motion carried unanimously.*

18. ADJOURNMENT

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



Mayor Ashley Brady



Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk