

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 AT 5:30 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 Clerk Lakesha Shannon

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. MARION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION

Presenters:

- Crystal Morphis
- Mark Farris
- Glenn Campbell

The meeting was held to review and discuss the City of Marion's Economic Development Strategic Plan, including strategic goals, scope of work, funding, community input, and potential priority projects.

Strategic Goals

The presenters outlined the following strategic goals for the City of Marion:

1. **Invest in downtown and community amenities** to leverage the regional tourism economy and overall regional growth.

2. **Attract companies to invest in Marion** and create new employment opportunities.
3. **Strengthen community connections** through improved communications, events, and partnerships.

Funding

It was noted that the project includes **\$250,000 in guaranteed implementation funding** from the **Department of Commerce**, designated to support projects identified within the Strategic Plan.

Scope of Work

The presenters reviewed the scope of work included in the Strategic Plan, which consists of:

- Research and market analysis
- Community engagement efforts
- SWOT analysis
- Development of vision, mission, goals, and priority projects
- Project profiles
- Strategic plan development
- Identification of technical issues
- Implementation strategies

Community and Business Survey Results

Results from a community and business survey were presented, providing insight into local priorities, opportunities, and challenges. The feedback

helped inform the recommended goals and potential projects within the Strategic Plan.

Potential Priority Project – Main Street Market

Photos and concept details were shared for a proposed project titled **Main Street Market**. Presenters discussed creative strategies and ideas to ensure the success of the project and its role in revitalizing downtown Marion.

Council Discussion and Next Steps

City Council members expressed strong interest and were impressed with the presentation and proposed concepts. Council indicated that further action and discussion will take place at an upcoming City Council meeting.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

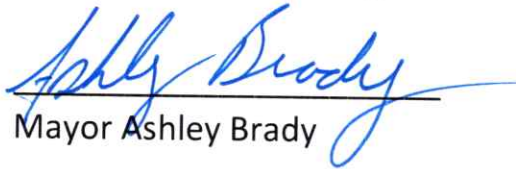
A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter. The motion carried unanimously.

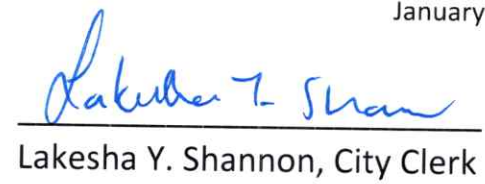
4. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, and seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Brady stated that there was no action taken in executive session.

5. 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