

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 AT 6:15 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilman Donny Gerald

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt

Councilman Fred Gause

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator

City Treasurer Patricia Brown

Attorney James Brogdon

Police Chief Tony Flowers

City Clerk Lakesha Shannon

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

1. PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER

The public hearing was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ORDINANCES

There were no comments from the public regarding **Ordinance 26-03 An Ordinance to Rezone Property** as presented.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no comments from the public, *a motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis to adjourn the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.*

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

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 – April 14, 2026

A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Mayor Brady named Officer Jason Jones with the City of Marion Police Department as the April Employee of the Month. He thanked Officer Jones for all his hard work in helping to keep the city safe.

6. **BUILDING SAFETY MONTH PROCLAMATION**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to adopt the 2026 Building Safety Month Proclamation. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Brady noted that adopting this proclamation annually helps the city maintain its ISO rating.

7. **APPROVE GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT WITH SC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

The City recently adopted an economic development plan project for Main Street and will receive \$250,000.00 in grant funding from the SC Department of Commerce to complete the project. *A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to*

approve the Grant Award Agreement with SC Department of Commerce.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. APPROVE ORDINANCES:

➤ ***2nd Reading Ordinance #26-03 – An Ordinance to Rezone Property***

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance #26-03 An Ordinance to Rezone Property. The motion passed 6-0, with Councilman Donny Gerald recusing himself due to a vested interest in the referenced property (see attached).

➤ ***1st Reading on Ordinance 26-04 An Ordinance to Set Millage for Raising Funds to Adopt the Budget for the City of Marion Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027***

A motion was made by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to approve 1st Reading on Ordinance 26-04 An Ordinance to Set Millage for Raising Funds to Adopt the Budget for the City of Marion Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027. The motion passed unanimously.

➤ ***1st Reading on Ordinance 26-05 An Ordinance to Appropriate Hospitality Revenues for the City of Marion for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year***

A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve 1st Reading on Ordinance 26-05 An Ordinance to Appropriate Hospitality Revenues for the City of Marion for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. The motion passed unanimously.

- **1st Reading on Ordinance 26-06 An Ordinance to Appropriate and Establish Stormwater Utility Revenues for the City of Marion for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year**

A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve 1st Reading on Ordinance 26-06 An Ordinance to Appropriate and Establish Stormwater Utility Revenues for the City of Marion for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. The motion passed unanimously.

- **1st Reading on Ordinance 26-07 An Ordinance Granting a Non-Exclusive Right, Privilege and Franchise to HTC, Inc., to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Telecommunications System in the City of Marion, South Carolina, Subject to the Conditions, Reservations and Limitations Herein Stated.**

A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis to approve 1st Reading on Ordinance 26-07 An Ordinance Granting a Non-Exclusive Right, Privilege and Franchise to HTC, Inc., to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Telecommunications System in the City of Marion, South Carolina, Subject to the Conditions, Reservations and Limitations Herein Stated. Mayor Brady stated that he and Administrator Ammons met with representatives from HTC last week to discuss their proposal for installing lines for internet service throughout the city. The schedule of installation will be based on federal guidelines, and the 1st phase will begin late summer south of Liberty Street. The motion passed unanimously.

- **1st Reading on Ordinance 26-08 An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 25-08 An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Marion to Convey Certain Real Property**

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve 1st Reading on Ordinance 26-08 An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 25-08 An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Marion to Convey Certain Real Property. Administrator Ammons explained that this ordinance is to amend the property line on the map which was based on the new property addition in error. Approval of this ordinance will allow the correction to be made. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

9. SET DATE FOR BUDGET WORKSHOP

The City Council Budget Workshop will be held on May 19, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

10. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

- **Performing Arts & Science Academy (PASA) – Meal Program**

Mrs. Justine Roberts, Director of the Performing Arts & Science Academy (PASA) presented an overview of their upcoming summer feeding program in Marion County. PASA has been a sponsor of this program for the past 10 years and this year they have expanded the schedule to include free meals to children 7 days a week for lunch and breakfast. She asked if council would support by showing up to the various distribution sites and being visible. Mrs. Roberts stated that she was recently named an ambassador for the No Kid Hungry Program. She noted that Jackson McGill Funeral Home will now be a drive thru site for food distribution as well as Grice's Recreation Center. PASA will now

provide home delivers to 100 families in partnership with Amazon. The food will be purchased in partnership with local farmers, grocery stores, industrial supply stores and restaurants to ensure that funding will remain within Marion County. Council approved the request from Mrs. Roberts to allow the use of Grice's Recreation Center as a distribution site for this year's program. The City of Marion Police Department will also assist with traffic control at the food distribution sites.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Alan Ammons stated that city was recently awarded \$468,000.00 in CTC funding to complete paving projects. The current paving projects are nearing competition.

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 provided an overview of the upcoming Foxtrot Festival Schedule which includes Kids Night on Friday, May 15 at Amazing Grace Park followed by the fireworks show at Withlacoochee Park. The main event and parade will be held on Saturday, May 16 beginning at 10:00 am downtown Marion. He encouraged everyone to come out and support this great event. The Green Street Stormwater Project is ongoing and 36 inch piping is now being installed to extend the stormwater line. There has been a delay due to the installation of a powerline by Duke Energy that will need to be relocated.

Councilman Michael Baker:

Councilman Baker stated that Administrator Ammons has addressed his concerns during the month.

Councilman Fred Gause:

Councilman Gause thanked PASA for all they do with the summer feeding program. He highlighted recent events he attended throughout the month. He asked if the city could provide a tutorial to the community explaining how to use the Police Department app, and the Text MyGov app that the city uses to communicate information to the public. Mayor Brady stated that a tutorial video can be created.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson:

Councilman Atkinson stated that he has already discussed his concerns with Chief Flowers Project.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt:

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt thanked Mrs. Roberts for the great job she does with the summer feeding program. He encouraged citizens to stay focused and healthy.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis:

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis expressed the importance of utilizing the Police Department app to address issues within the community. She asked citizens to be aware of their surrounds, and report any suspicious activity.

Councilman Donny Gerald:

Councilman Gerald thanked Chief Flowers and the police department for their work in a recent arrest that resulted in the confiscation of drugs, weapons, and a large amount of cash.

Councilman Baker thanked everyone for their support with the recent dinner fundraiser sale at St. John AME Church. He gave a special thanks to Mayor Brady as he is always generous in making sure that every city employee receives a meal.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

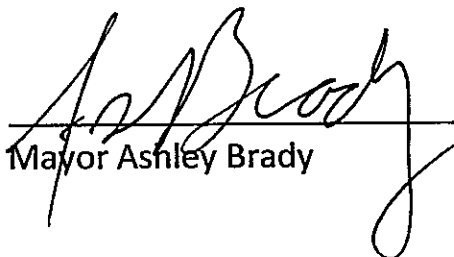
A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to go into executive session to discuss Legal Advice – City Attorney, and a Contractual matter. The motion carried unanimously.

15. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

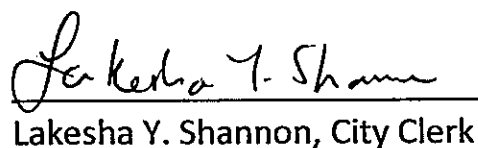
Returning from executive session, ***a motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, and seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously.*** Mayor Brady stated that there was no action taken in executive session.

16. ADJOURNMENT

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



Mayor Ashley Brady



Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Donny Gerald

Meeting Date: 5/12/2026

Agenda Item: _____ Section _____ Number: 8

Topic: Ordinance 26-03 An Ordinance
to Rezone Property

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.

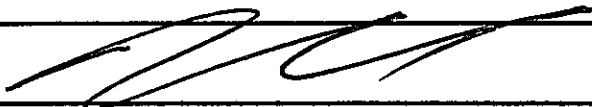
Justification to Recuse:

_____ Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

✓ Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

_____ Other: _____

Date: 5/12/2026


Member

Approved by Parliamentarian: Raketa Y. Shannon