

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Fred Gause
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Donny Gerald	
Councilman Michael Baker	

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt was not in attendance

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator
City Treasurer Patricia Brown
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 – August 11, 2026

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

5. AUGUST EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mayor Brady named Cooper Toy with the City of Marion Fire Department as the August 2026 Employee of the Month. He thanked Cooper for all his hard work, and noted his dedication to public safety as he is always seen responding to calls.

6. PEE DEE COALITION COMMUNITY EVENTS UPDATE

Ms. Gwen Strickland, member of the Pee Dee Coalition Board of Directors provided an update on upcoming community events hosted by Pee Dee Coalition as they honor October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She stated that this awareness is very important as SC is ranked 10th in the country for domestic violence. Ms. Strickland shared some statistics and stated that they work hard to show up in the community to continuously bring awareness. She thanked the City of Marion for their continued support, and expressed her appreciation for their annual \$5,000 donation to Pee Dee Coalition.

7. APPROVE ORDINANCES:

- **2nd Reading on Ordinance 26-11 An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 06-13 Section 200 Table 1 Sector 44-45 An Ordinance to Prohibit Liquor Stores in the Core Commercial Zoning District**

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance 26-11 An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 06-13 Section 200 Table 1 Sector 44-45 An Ordinance to Prohibit Liquor Stores in the Core Commercial Zoning District. The motion passed unanimously.

- **1st Reading on Ordinance 26-12 An Ordinance to Amend Rates for Sanitation Services**

Mayor Brady noted that this ordinance amendment is to correct the previously adopted Ordinance 26-09 which included a typo. That ordinance listed the sanitation rate as \$31.75 rather than the approved rate of \$32.75. ***A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance 26-12 An Ordinance to Amend Rates for Sanitation Services. The motion passed unanimously.***

- ***1st Reading on Ordinance 26-13 An Ordinance to Amend Section 1-8004 to Provide That All Regularly Scheduled Elections For Mayor and Council Shall Be Held in Odd-Numbered Years on the First Tuesday After the First Monday in April as Now Required by South Carolina Law***
- A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve 1st Reading of Ordinance 26-13 An Ordinance to Amend Section 1-8004 to Provide That All Regularly Scheduled Elections For Mayor and Council Shall Be Held in Odd-Numbered Years on the First Tuesday After the First Monday in April as Now Required by South Carolina Law. The motion passed unanimously.***

8. APPROVE EAST MARION OUTFALL RESTORATION BIDS

Mayor Brady stated that approval of this bid will allow for the cleaning of the outfall that runs beside Rose Hill Cemetery. Several bids were received with Gasters Grading Co. Inc presenting the low bid. This company has done several stormwater projects for the city. ***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Donny Gerald to approve the bid of \$189,803.24 from Gasters Grading Co. Inc. for the East Marion Outfall Restoration Bid. The motion passed unanimously.***

9. **REQUEST TO ALLOW BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS WITHIN THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:**

➤ Police Department – Server Upgrades

Mayor Brady stated that the police department server needs to be upgraded to meet SLED security protocols. The cost of this upgrade will be \$19,985.00. ***A motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the budget adjustment of \$19,985.00 for the server upgrades. The motion passed unanimously.***

➤ Recreation Department – Turf Tank

Mayor Brady stated that the recently purchased Turf Tank 3-year renewal lease was overlooked. He requested that the recreation department budget be amended to cover the current year lease renewal fee of \$11,880.00. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the budget adjustment of \$11,880.00 for the Turf Tank lease renewal. The motion passed unanimously.***

10. **PROCLAMATION FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENES MONTH**

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Fred Gause to approve the Proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. The motion passed unanimously.

11. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Alan Ammons stated that the Highway 76 Catfish Creek Bridge repairs are scheduled to be complete within the next 2-3 weeks. Council recently discussed adopting a Main Street Flag Display Policy. **A**

motion was made by Councilman Fred Gause, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve the Main Street Flag Display Policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

12. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no comments.

13. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady

Mayor Brady stated that the City of Marion Fire Department has been working hard in preparation for the upcoming 9/11 Memorial Program which be held on Friday, September 11 at 5:30 pm at the Marion County Courthouse to honor the 25th year anniversary of this tragic event. He encouraged everyone to attend and support this event. Mayor Brady commented on the recent wind storm that caused downed trees and power outages throughout the city. He noted that city staff along with the power companies worked hard to ensure that the debris was cleaned up and power restored in a timely manner. Football and soccer season have started at the recreation department with a great turnout. He encouraged council to go out and support the youth. The Senator Gasque Bridge is now reopened.

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilman Baker had no comment.

Councilman Fred Gause

Councilman Gause stated that he is excited about the reopening of the Catfish Creek Bridge on Highway 76. He stated that the owners of the 2 gas stations near the bridge shared with him how they experienced a loss of

business during the time the bridge was closed for repairs. Councilman Gause thanked all the city departments for their hard work and professionalism.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Atkinson also thanked all the city departments for their hard work, especially with the recent storm cleanup. He also thanked Chief Tony Flowers for all his department is doing to address gun violence and drugs in the community.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

Councilwoman Lewis encouraged citizens to always remain vigilant in being aware of their surroundings. She stated that individuals are experiencing shootings and persons carrying assault weapons in their neighborhoods. She asked that if you see something that looks suspicious please say something.

Councilman Donny Gerald

Councilman Gerald had no comments.

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 – Building & Grounds, and a Legal Matter. The motion carried unanimously.

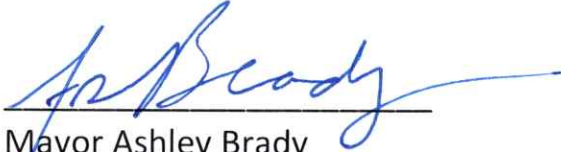
15. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, 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

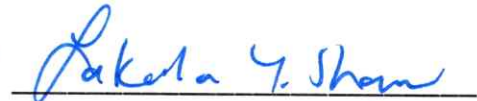
executive session. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to allow the City Treasurer to take the necessary actions to amend the city budget by increasing the building and maintenance allotment by \$36,160.00 to cover increased personnel costs. The motion passed unanimously.***

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

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



Mayor Ashley Brady



Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk