

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARION, ARKANSAS

The Council of the City of Marion, Arkansas met in regular session Tuesday, January 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Marion City Hall.

Present:	Tracy Brick	Mayor
	Kelsey Hensley	Councilwoman (1-1)
	Adam Cupples	Councilman (1-2)
	Cliff Wood	Councilman (2-1)
	Taylor Guy	Councilman (2-2)
	Bryan Jackson	Councilman (3-1)
	Ray Nassar	Councilman (3-2)
	Chris Crain	City Attorney
	David W. Rikard	City Treasurer
	Patty James	City Clerk

Others

Present:	Brannon Hinkle	Police Chief
	Woody Wheelless	Fire Chief
	Norman Hampton	Public Works Superintendent
	Andy Rawls	Parks Superintendent
	Brandon Hall	Water & Sewer Superintendent
	Beth Wilson	Economic Development
	Fred Thorne, Jr.	Planning Commission & Building Inspector

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Absent:	Jon Millsap	Asst. Police Chief
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I.

Councilman Guy made a motion, seconded by Councilman Cupples, to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2025, Council meeting. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

II.

Citizens' Concerns: Raymond Whiteside of 131 S. George addressed the Council concerning his petition for Ward-based City Council elections if anyone present would like to sign the petition.

Mayor Brick advised that Austin Cates had brought up at the November Council meeting that West Memphis passed a resolution to eliminate personal income tax for the City of West Memphis. Mayor Brick has spoken to Lt. Governor Rutledge and at this time there is no resolution coming before the legislature eliminating personal income tax.

III.

Planning Commission: Fred Thorne, Jr. reported the Planning Commission met on January 6, 2026. The Planning Commission approved the final plats for both Hwy 77 Cowling Cove and Domino Subdivision.

Monte Hodges is going through the zoning process for an empty hotel located at 2700 I-55N to convert to a proposed Veterans facility. He will come back to the Planning Commission at a later date for approval for rezoning.

Building Inspector: Fred Thorne, Jr. reported there were 2 new house permits, 0 commercial permits and 16 miscellaneous permits were issued for the month of December. That brings year-to-date totals to 45 new house permits, 6 commercial permits and 217 miscellaneous permits for a total of \$34,871,853.90 in new construction.

There was no report for January construction.

Public Works: This report was covered later in the meeting under New Business.

IV.

Old Business:

Military Road Update – Mayor Brick reported ArDot is saying April 2026 is the bid date for the Military Road expansion project.

Overpass Update – Mayor Brick reported she will have the final plans for the Overpass Project by March 16, 2026. They are currently going under final review with ArDot and BNSF Railroad.

Fire Station No. 1 - Fred Thorne, Jr. reported that two phone lines still need to be installed, after which the alarm company can return to test the alarm.

MPD Towing Board – Chief Hinkle and Asst. Chief Millsap have done a lot of research and forwarded the info to Mayor Brick. Mayor Brick has been in email communication with the Arkansas State Towing and Recovery Board director to discuss guidelines. Mayor Brick advised the need to schedule a Police Committee meeting to discuss this info. A Police Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Conference room.

BP Station I-55 Service Road - This item was tabled for the February Council meeting.

V.

New Business:

2026 Holiday Schedule - This was included in the Council packets

Committee Appointments - A 2025 Committee Appointment sheet was included in the Council Packets. Mayor Brick advised if any Council members wanted to change any of their committee appointments to get with her.

2026 Budget – This was covered later in the meeting under Resolutions and Ordinances.

Woodland View Drainage Bid – Councilman Jackson reported the Public Works Committee met on Thursday, January 8, 2026, and approved a recommendation to the City Council to accept the lowest bid by B & B Utility for \$85,755.00. Councilman Cupples made a motion, seconded by Councilman Nassar, to approve the lowest bid recommendation by the Public Works Committee to B & B Utility for \$85,755.00 to do the Woodland View Drainage Project. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

VI.

Resolutions, Ordinances & Proclamations:

Mayor Brick brought to the floor and read the title of a resolution titled **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RULES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF MEETINGS OF THE MARION CITY**

COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES which establishes the rules of operation for Marion City Council meetings. Councilwoman Hensley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, that the resolution be adopted. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion. The resolution was numbered 2026-01.

Mayor Brick brought to the floor and read the title of a resolution titled **A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ESTABLISHING NEW BANK ACCOUNTS AND ESTABLISHING SECURITY AND PLEDGE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARION AND BANKING INSTITUTIONS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026**, which permits the mayor and treasurer to open any needed new bank accounts and sign related paperwork and to sign any needed paperwork to secure pledge agreements for city deposits. Councilman Guy made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley, that the resolution be adopted. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion. The resolution was numbered 2026-02.

Mayor Brick brought to the floor and read the title of a resolution titled **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARION, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TWELVE (12) MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH AND EVERY ITEM OF EXPENDITURE THEREIN**, which establishes the budget for calendar year 2026. Councilman Guy made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, that the resolution be adopted. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion. The resolution was numbered 2026-03.

Mayor Brick brought to the floor and read the title of a resolution **A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2025 BUDGET** which amends the 2025 budget to reflect \$1,695,196.00 total changes in the 2025 budget. Councilman Cupples made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jackson, that the resolution be adopted. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion. The Resolution was numbered 2025-10.

Mayor Brick brought to the floor and read the title of a resolution **A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE WOOLFOLK LIBRARY ROOF REPLACEMENT**. Councilman Jackson made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hensley, that the resolution be adopted. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion. The Resolution was numbered 2026-04.

VII.

Financial Report: Treasurer Rikard noted that the December financials have been distributed. December sales tax collections were better than budget by 3.2% for the city portion and better than budget by 7.2% for the county portion. That results in year-to-date sales tax through December being worse than budget by 1.1% for the city portion and 2.7% for the county portion. In dollars that amounts to approximately \$75,000.00 of collections less than budget. The January 2026 sales tax has been released, and the city portion is better than budget by 0.2% and the county portion is better than budget by 8.2%. Rikard pointed out that overall general fund revenue collections (excluding grant income and asset sales) through December were worse than budget by approximately \$62,000.00 and general fund expenditures (excluding capital items and grant expenditures) were better than budget by approximately \$13,000.00.

VIII.

Departmental Reports:

Mayor Brick thanked all the Department Heads for taking care of everything during the bad weather.

Norman Hampton had nothing further to report.

Councilman Jackson advised the Council that the Public Works Department would be hit with some maintenance costs with equipment breaking down.

Trash pick up will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

Chief Hinkle had nothing further to report.

Andy Rawls thanked the Marion Police Department for their assistance with Colonial Park and the Complex during the bad winter weather. Colonial Park is awaiting the arrival of the new bathrooms. There has been a delay due to the winter weather.

A Parks Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Conference room.

Fred Thorne, Jr. had nothing further to report.

Brandon Hall had nothing further to report.

Mayor Brick thanked Brandon for the awesome job he has done during the winter weather.

Beth Wilson stated that she plans to attend the ICSC Meeting in mid-February, where she will meet with restaurant owners and developers. She hopes to bring back some good prospects for the city.

There being no further business to come before the Council and upon proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk