

TOWN OF MARION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
DECEMBER 16TH, 2025

The Town of Marion's Board of Aldermen met on Tuesday, December 16TH, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Marion Fire Station for a regular business meeting. Members present included Mayor Danny A. Smith, Alderwoman Rhonda Davis, Alderman Mark Andrews, Alderwoman Tina Harris, Alderman Channing Washington, and Alderman Eugene Hoggatt. Guests included Public Works Director Jimmy Caldwell, Town Clerk Devin Greene, Police Chief Montral Ferguson, and Assistant Clerk Cheyl Geoghanan.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Chery Geoghanan led the invocation, and Devin Greene led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On to public comments, Mayor Smith wished everyone and the town a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Smith called for the approval of the agenda. It was noticed that the date on the agenda was incorrect. Motion to amend the agenda was motioned by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Andrews. Motion passed. After amending the agenda, on motion by Alderman Hoggatt, seconded by Alderman Andrews, the motion passed. Approval was then called for the November 25TH regular business minutes. On motion by Alderman Hoggatt, seconded by Alderwoman Davis, the motion passed.

The Town Council addressed old business. Jeff Maxwell was unable to attend to give an update on the 2024 Audit. But Mayor Smith did provide an update from Mr. Maxwell that the audit should be completed in the next two weeks. Next was a roll call vote to approve 2026 alcohol licenses. Which was approved

Yay:

Tina Harris

Rhonda Davis

Channing Washington

Nay:

Eugene Hoggat

Abstained:

Mark Andrews

Next, Mayor Smith explained Ordinance 2024-01 and brought to attention the annual increase from the Consumer Price Index. Rhonda Davis motioned to carry this into 2026 and to work on setting the date to January 1ST. After that,

Mayor Smith presented to the council suggested revisions of the handbook and personnel policies. Onto updates in old business. Information to allow LAMATS to sell the town's surplus police cars is almost all ready to be submitted. Marion Garden Club signed a hold harmless agreement and was given guidelines for use of the Fire Station. We are still working on getting LITA Corp to find the match for the sewer improvement grant. Lastly, a reminder that everyone must complete their required online training for Ethics, Cyber, etc.

Addressing new business, the Mayor and Council went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter on motion by Alderman Hoggatt and seconded by Alderman Andrews. The executive session was adjourned on motion by Alderman Hoggatt and seconded by Alderwoman Harris. No action was taken. We are still working on getting Civic Source to collect delinquent property taxes. We are providing them with the previous years' spreadsheets. Next, the council took action to approve the proposed 2026 budget. On motion of Alderman Washington and seconded by Alderwoman Harris, the motion was passed. This month had no reported damaged or missing streetlights or signs. Lastly, 2026 town holidays and court dates were introduced and approved by a motion by Alderman Washington and seconded by Alderman Hoggett. The motion was unanimously approved.

On to Informational Items. The town has a policy in place for the use of the fire station by Civic organizations, where they must sign a hold harmless agreement. Next, we are working with Joseph Cusomano on annexing the property of Bruce and Susan Thomas. Mayor Smith reported the town has had many reports of stray animals this month. He also provided a report on the first annual First Responders Christmas parade and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The Town Hall will be closed December 24TH-25TH for the Christmas holidays.

Police Chief Ferguson provided a report on a recent drug bust in town by the sheriff's department. Public Works Director Caldwell reported that there was a technical problem today, which was resolved.

A call to motion to pay bills was made. Alderman Andrews motioned and was seconded by Alderman Hoggatt. The motion passed. There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Smith adjourned this meeting on December 16TH, 2025. Upon motion by Alderman Hoggatt, seconded by Alderman Washington, the motion was unanimously approved

Danny A. Smith, Mayor