

TOWN OF MARION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 20TH, 2026

The Town of Marion's Board of Aldermen met on Tuesday, January 20TH, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Marion Fire Station for a regular business meeting. Members present included Mayor Danny A. Smith, Alderman Mark Andrews, Alderwoman Tina Harris, Alderman Channing Washington, and Alderman Eugene Hoggatt. Alderwoman Rhonda Davis was absent. Guests included Public Works Director Jimmy Caldwell, Police Chief Montral Furguson, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Estes, Town Clerk Devin Greene, and Assistant Clerk Cheryl Geoghagan.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Alderman Eugene Hoggatt led the invocation, and Michael Estes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments

Mayor Smith called for the approval of the agenda. Alderman Hoggatt motioned, Alderman Andrews seconded. The motion passed. Approval was then called for the December 16TH regular business minutes. On motion by Alderman Andrews, seconded by Alderwoman Harris, the motion passed. The town council addressed old business. Starting with a Code Enforcement Update from our part-time code enforcement officer. Jeff Maxwell was unable to attend the meeting to provide an update on the 2024 audit. Next was an update on LAMATS selling our surplus police vehicles. An advertisement was submitted to the banner next is for LAMATS to advertise on the website. Next for LITA Corps, we got word that we did not receive the funding for the Safe Streets for All grant. Now, Mayor Smith reported that 150 acres was leased for a solar farm in Marion. Now for an update on the potential annexation of Bruce and Susan Thomas's property. We are looking into what steps we must take to pursue this. Next, water rates were increased retroactively 3% the month of January 2026 in accordance with ordinance 2024-01. Lastly, for old business, the council considers making changes to the handbook.

Addressing new business, the council began by approving Albert Hill to become the

future Public Works Director. The council took a vote

Yay: Tina Harris

Nay:

Absent: Rhonda Davis

Channing Washington

Mark Andrews

Eugene Hoggatt

Now the council considers approving Keith Jeselink to continue contracting as a Water Operator in 2026. Alderman Andrews motioned, and Alderman Hoggatt seconded. The motion passed. The council next approved the town getting a Time Clock for our employees. Alderman Hoggatt motioned, and Alderman Andrew seconded. The motion passed. No streetlights or signs were reported damaged or missing. Lastly, the council selects Alderman Eugene Hoggatt to be Mayor Pro Tem for 2026. Alderman Washington motioned and was seconded by Alderwoman Harris.

On to a brief Informational Item. Host support will provide texting alerts to utility customers who opt in for notifications. We are working to implement this.

No departments had any comments or reports.

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 January 20TH, 2025. Upon motion by Alderman Andrews, seconded by Alderwoman Harris, the motion was unanimously approved.

Danny A. Smith, Mayor