

TOWN OF MARION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

JULY 21st, 2026

The regular monthly Marion Town Council Meeting convened @ 7 pm, Tuesday, July 21, 2026 @ the Marion Fire Station Conference Room. In attendance were Mayor Danny A. Smith, Council Members Mark Andrews, Channing Washington, Rhonda Davis & Bubba Hoggatt. Councilwoman Tina Harris was absent. Also in attendance were Town Clerk Margie Albritton, Assistant Clerk Cheryl Geoghagan, and Assistant Police Chief Bruce McCrell. Guests who attended the Town Council meeting were members of the Marion Fire Department along with Fire Chief Addison Akers. Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked Asst. Town Clerk Cheryl Geoghagan to lead the prayer, and Councilman Channing Washington to lead the pledge. Mayor Smith opened up the floor to any public comments requested by the guest in attendance. None were made. A motion was made by Channing Washington and seconded by Rhonda Davis to approve the agenda. A request was made to amend the agenda to add the discussion of the Audit Questionnaire. All approved, and the motion passed. The financials were reviewed by the Council members. A motion was made by Rhonda Davis to approve the financials and was seconded by Mark Andrews. All approved. A motion was made by Bubba Hoggatt to approve the June 16, 2026 meeting minutes. This was seconded by Channing Washington, and the motion carried; all approved.

Under old Business, Mayor Smith advised that we have a Marion Fire Department Update. Fire Chief Addison Akers was welcomed to open the floor for discussion of the Marion Fire Department. Chief Addison Akers advised that on 01/01/2027, the Fire Rate will increase to 10. We have until November to hopefully prevent this from happening. 10 is the least advisable rating a town can get and will cause the insurance rates on the town and its citizens to increase. Chief Addison requested the town to help fund the \$8,000.00 for 2 sets of Bunker Gear. The town provided funds to repair one of the fire trucks, but two more need funds for repairs. Chief Akers asked about a yearly Fire Insurance Rebate from the Police Jury that may have been received by the Town back in August of 2025. Mayor stated that this will be looked into and given to the Fire Department if available. Mayor suggested doing a mileage fee and some local fundraising to also assist the

Marion Fire Department with needed funds. The town has previously paid for two fuel pumps needed and a battery for the truck repairs. The fire department may look into getting a mileage added or some form of revenue approved in the near future.

Mayor Smith updated the town council on the Town Annexation project and stated our legal counsel, Joe Cusimano, said that we have more to do before this is complete. Mark Andrews made the motion to increase the Brightspeed fee from 2% to 5%. This was seconded by Channing Washington, and all approved. Motion passed.

The Water Sector Program was discussed, and the mayor stated that the Water engineer Bob Myers attended a meeting, and it was stated that they will not approve any new money until all the previous monies have been used. The DEQ/LITA Corp Sewer improvement project will soon be able to request our Sewer Rate Study in August.

In new Business, the Mayor asked the council to withdraw funds from our savings account to move into the General Fund. Our Revenue is currently down from last year, but the expenses have increased. Mark Andrews made the motion to transfer a specific amount to the General Fund. Rhonda Davis seconded the motion. All approved, and the motion passed. Street Light outages have been reported at the Methodist Church and the Marion Baptist Church. Damaged and Missing Street signs were also reported to be repaired. The Audit Questionnaire was reviewed by the mayor and given to the council to review. Bubba Hoggatt made the motion to approve the signing of the Louisiana Compliance Audit Questionnaire. Rhonda Davis seconded the motion, and all approved. Council members were also provided with a copy of a Fraud Questionnaire needed for our auditors. Auditors ask that the council and the mayor review the questionnaire, complete and return it to them.

Mayor Smith advised the council that Jason McKinnie with DEQ held a Super Fund meeting at the fire station on Tuesday, June 7th, 2026. The Union Parish Library and the Town of Marion also hosted a "Let Freedom Read" event on Thursday, June 9th, 2026, at the fire station. Asst. Chief Bruce McCrell stated that the UPSO is continuing the investigation into the theft at the Dollar General. An update was given that the Garbage Department asked that the citizens know to put the trash

out on Monday night to ensure the trash is picked up on Tuesday morning. The Garbage runs are happening very early on Tuesday mornings. The councilmen asked that we provide an update at the next meeting on the water certification training progress for our public works employees. Bubba Hoggatt made the motion to allow the Town Clerk to continue to pay the bills. This was seconded by Mark Andrews. All approved. There were no closing remarks. Rhonda Davis made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and this was seconded by Mark Andrews. All approved.

Danny A. Smith, Mayor

Marjorie L. Albritton, Town Clerk