

**Special Called Meeting of the Marion City Council**  
**Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 5:00 P.M**

The Marion City Council met in a special session on May 27, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. with Mayor D'Anna Browning presiding. Council members present were Randy Dunn, Wanda Olson, Taylor Davis, Dwight Sherer, Bobby Belt and Nikki Conger. City employees in attendance were as follows: Chief Bobby West, Diane Ford-Benningfield, Layten Croft, Cortny Cosby, Anna Baker and Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer.

**Public Comments**

Mayor Browning welcomed everyone and stated that traditionally public comments are not made during a special called meeting. Mayor Browning stated that for this special called meeting, she was going to allow public comments. A citizen questioned why the city wants to raise the water rate. Mayor Browning explained that Tim Thomas was able to secure a free rate study for the city, after the rate study it was recommended that the city have a water rate increase of 54%. Mayor Browning stated that as a council they decided not to raise the rates by 54%, instead the council agreed upon a 40% increase. Mayor Browning added that there had not been a rate increase before 2023 on the water portion of the bill since 2015. Mayor Browning stated that the boil water advisory this past week was a good example of why the rates must increase, and noted the high cost of chemicals, insurance, etc. Mayor Browning stated that as a city we have received several grants, but each grant has a specific bucket to fill and cannot be used otherwise. Citizen Paul Beard stated that he understood the need for a rate increase but simply cannot afford gas and water if the rates increase. A citizen stated that she had a hernia, making it difficult to haul water from her basement during boil water advisories. City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that at this point the water is safe to drink, the boil water advisory was out of immense caution. Citizen Kelly Kluger questioned where the samples for testing were taken. Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield stated that testing is done in several places, hydrants are flushed to move water more regularly. Citizen Kenny Moss stated that the water is dark. Mayor Browning requested Kenny Moss to call city hall when he experienced the issue again, to have the lines flushed. Council Member Bobby Belt stated that he has been very outspoken about not increasing the water rate, although he understands the need. Council Member Bobby Belt added that his water has never been brown, and he trusts that the water is safe. Council Member Dwight Sherer agreed that the water is good and safe. Council Member Taylor Davis stated our water source is hard to treat, and we will soon be on Crittenden-Livingston water. Citizen Kenny Moss questioned if rates would increase after the switch to Crittenden-Livingston water. Mayor Browning explained that Crittenden-Livingston rates are set by the public service commission. Citizen Sheylle Conger thanked the council for all of their work.

**General Government**

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the second reading of ORDINANCE NO. 25-08 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 110.22(a) TO THE IMPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE REQUIREMENT AND PAYMENT OF AN OCCUPATIONAL AND OTHER COMPENSATION AND NET PROFITS TAX BY PERSONS AND BUSINESS ENTITIES CONDUCTING BUSINESS, OCCUPATIONS, AND PROFESSIONS WITHIN THE CORPORATE CITY LIMITS OF MARION, KENTUCKY. Council Member Bobby Belt stated that he strongly disagrees with doubling the occupational payroll tax and added that he believed this should be incremental. Council Member Taylor Davis stated that what worried him was 0.5 % could leave the city with nothing on a rainy day and added that the city needs an emergency fund. Council Member Bobby Belt makes a motion to increase the occupational tax 0.5%. Second motion was not made. Motion failed. Motion to approve ORDINANCE NO. 25-08 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 110.22(a) TO THE IMPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE REQUIREMENT AND PAYMENT OF AN OCCUPATIONAL AND OTHER COMPENSATION AND NET PROFITS TAX BY PERSONS AND BUSINESS ENTITIES CONDUCTING BUSINESS, OCCUPATIONS, AND PROFESSIONS WITHIN THE CORPORATE CITY LIMITS OF MARION, KENTUCKY made by Council Member Nikki Conger, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn. Roll Call Randy Dunn; yes, Wanda Olson; yes, Taylor Davis; yes, Dwight Sherer; Yes, Bobby Belt; no, Nikki Conger; yes. Motion passed.

Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the second reading of ORDINANCE NO. 25-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WATER RATES FOR THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY. Motion to approve ORDINANCE NO. 25-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WATER RATES FOR THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY made by Council Member Wanda Olson, seconded by Council Member Dwight Sherer. Roll Call: Randy Dunn; yes, Wanda Olson; yes. Taylor Davis; yes, Dwight Sherer; yes, Bobby Belt; no, Nikki Conger; yes. Motion passed.

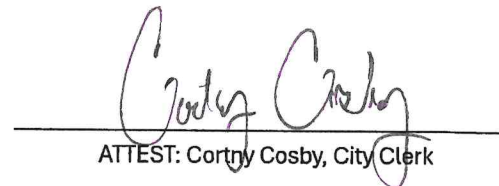
Legal Service Officer Bart Frazer provided the first reading of ORDINANCE NO. 25-09 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 07/01/2025 THROUGH 06/30/2026 BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND

RESOURCES AND APPROPRATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT. Council Member Nikki Conger sponsored ORDINANCE NO. 25-09 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 07/01/2025 THROUGH 06/30/2026 BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion was made by Council Member Taylor Davis, seconded by Council Member Randy Dunn to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.

  
D'Anna Browning, Mayor

  
ATTEST: Cortny Cosby, City Clerk