



Marion City Council Meeting Agenda



Location: Marion Community Building

Address: 191 N Main Street

Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Item #	Agenda Topics	Notes
1.	Consent Agenda A: Budget Ordinance Amendment B: Approval of Grant Application - Catawba River Sewer Ariel Mitigation Project C. Approval of Grant Application - Marion Wastewater Treatment Plant Helene Resilience Project D. Approval of Grant Application - Marion Wastewater Grit Classification Helene Resilience Project	
2.	Presentation of Law Enforcement Advanced Certificates	Presented by Police Chief Lawrence
3.	Public Appearance: Mission Ministries Alliance	Presented by Crystal Sweatt
4.	Public Comment Period	The Public Comment Period shall not exceed 30 minutes with each speaker limited to 5 minutes each.
5.	Presentation of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit	Presented by Sharon Gillespie, CPA
6.	Approval of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Calendar	Presented by Finance Director Young
7.	Acceptance of Grant Awards	Presented by Funding Coordinator Clark
8.	Continuation of Selection of Mayor Pro Tem	
9.	Scheduling of Next City Council Planning Session	
10.	City Manager's Report	



**CITY OF MARION, NORTH CAROLINA
2025-2026 BUDGET ORDINANCE
Amendment #2**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Marion, North Carolina as follows:

Section 1. That the Budget Ordinance for the City of Marion, North Carolina for the fiscal year 2025-2026 as adopted by the Marion City Council on the 17th day of June, 2025 is hereby amended as follows:

GENERAL FUND						
Department	Account #	Account Description	Before	After	Expenditure	Revenue Increase/
			Amendment	Amendment	Increase/ (Decrease)	(Decrease)
Revenues	100-300-41007	Tax Discount	\$ (21,500)	\$ (25,500)	\$ (4,000)	
	100-305-41009	Sales & Use Tax Distribution	\$ 2,225,640	\$ 2,270,055	\$ 44,415	
	100-340-42020	NC DPS - State & Local CyberSecurity Grant				
		Income - EMW-2023-CY-00066	\$ -	\$ 163,189	\$ 163,189	
Expenditures	100-420-81200	Capital Outlay	\$ 45,000	\$ 76,415	\$ 31,415	
	100-420-60300	Professional Services	\$ 68,000	\$ 77,000	\$ 9,000	
	100-445-82170	NC DPS - State & Local CyberSecurity Grant				
		Expense - EMW-2023-CY-00066	\$ -	\$ 163,189	\$ 163,189	
	Total			\$ 203,604.00	\$ 203,604.00	

GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND						
Revenues	110-385-48502	Transfer from General Fund - Powell Bill	\$ 872,930	\$ 956,000	\$ 83,070	
Expenditures	110-960-81200	Street Improvements	\$ 1,557,000	\$ 1,640,070	\$ 83,070	
	Total			\$ 83,070	\$ 83,070	

Section 2. Copies of this Budget Amendment shall be furnished to the Budget Officer to be kept on file for direction in the disbursement of Funds.

Adopted this the 6th day of January, 2026.

Stephen R. Little, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Katelyn R. Stinson, Assistant to the Manager/City Clerk

Ordinance Number O-26-01-06-01

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

WHEREAS, The City of Marion has need for and intends to construct, plan for, or conduct a study in a project described as the Catawba River Sewer Aerial Mitigation Project, and

WHEREAS, The City of Marion intends to request State loan and/or grant assistance for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARION:

That the City of Marion, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan and/or grant award.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the City of Marion to make a scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the City of Marion any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

That Crystal Young, Finance Officer, and Woody Ayers, City Manager, the **Authorized Representative(s)** and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the **Applicant** with the State of North Carolina for a loan and/or grant to aid in the study of or construction of the project described above.

That the **Authorized Representative(s)**, and successors so titled, are hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, and funding conditions applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this 6th day of January, 2026, by the City of Marion, North Carolina, City Council.

Stephen R. Little

Mayor

ATTEST:

Katelyn R. Stinson

Assistant to Manager/City Clerk

Resolution Number: R-26-01-06-01

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

WHEREAS, The City of Marion has need for and intends to construct, plan for, or conduct a study in a project described as the Marion Wastewater Treatment Plant Helene Resilience Project, and

WHEREAS, The City of Marion intends to request State loan and/or grant assistance for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARION:

That the City of Marion, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan and/or grant award.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the City of Marion to make a scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the City of Marion any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

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That the **Authorized Representative(s)**, and successors so titled, are hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, and funding conditions applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this 6th day of January, 2026, by the City of Marion, North Carolina, City Council.

Stephen R. Little

Mayor

ATTEST:

Katelyn R. Stinson

Assistant to Manager/City Clerk

Resolution Number: R-26-01-06-02

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

WHEREAS, The City of Marion has need for and intends to construct, plan for, or conduct a study in a project described as the Marion Wastewater Grit Classification Helene Resilience Project, and

WHEREAS, The City of Marion intends to request State loan and/or grant assistance for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARION:

That the City of Marion, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan and/or grant award.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the City of Marion to make a scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the City of Marion any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

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That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, and funding conditions applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this 6th day of January, 2026, by the City of Marion, North Carolina, City Council.

Stephen R. Little

Mayor

ATTEST:

Katelyn R. Stinson

Assistant to Manager/City Clerk

Resolution Number: R-26-01-06-03



City of Marion 2026-2027 Budget Calendar/Process

Fall '25 City Manager meets with City Council/Department Heads/Consultants in strategic planning sessions to set objectives and priorities for Fiscal Year 2026-27 as well as future years.

Jan. '26 City Manager and Department Heads meet to update the Capital Improvement Plan, evaluate staffing needs, and discuss preliminary financial and operational goals and objectives for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Jan. 12th Finance Director distributes budget documents to Department Heads noting milestones in budget process to have recommended budget to Council in May.

Feb. 2nd Budget estimates for Fiscal Year 2025-26 due to Finance from Department Heads.

March 9th Department Heads submit requested 2026-27 budget to City Manager that reflects the resources required to meet goals and objectives.

March-April City Manager and Finance Director review revenue estimates, particularly the State collected local revenues and property tax revenues. Property valuation estimates as of January 1, 2026 to be obtained from County as early as possible.
City Manager and Finance Director meet with Department Heads to discuss FY 2026-27 budget requests.
City Manager, HR Director, and Finance Director review proposed pay plan adjustments and the impact on the budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.
Budget work session are held during the month of April with City staff and City Council.



City of Marion 2026-2027 Budget Calendar/Process (Continued)

May City Manager proposes expenditure and revenue adjustments necessary to balance all funds.
 Based on the City Manager's recommendations, the budget document is produced as a proposal to the City Council by May 30.

June The proposed budget is presented to the full City Council for its adoption prior to July 1st. Copies of the budget document are filed in City Hall for public review.
 A Public Hearing is held to receive public comments on the proposed budget presented to the City Council.
 The budget document is adopted by June 30.