

Approval granted for special vehicles; water on city agenda

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council met Monday evening to tackle issues ranging from the ongoing water crisis to new special vehicle ordinances and code enforcement updates.

Mayor D’Anna Browning provided an update on the status of the city’s water supply, which remains strained despite help from Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD). Water Plant Supervisor Jeff Black said Lake George levels are just 8 feet above the intake pipe as evaporation continues to trouble the already crippled lake.

Between seasonal organic problems and leaks in the distribution system, Marion continues to face difficulties with water, likely for about three more years, the mayor noted.

“This will not be our last summer to struggle,” Browning said, pointing out that until CLWD can provide Marion with its full water needs, there will be issues with city water.

The two-county district is struggling to meet its own demands but has agreed to supplement Marion through the next few months with about 43,000 gallons. Browning said the city will remain under a local conservation order and state of emergency, and that she has requested bottled water distribution through Kentucky Emergency Management. Tentative plans call for households to present a water bill at the new wastewater treatment plant on Pippi Hardin Blvd. in September and October to receive 20 gallons of bottled water each month.

The council also passed two ordinances. The first authorizes the use of street-legal special purpose vehicles on most city streets, with restrictions during school travel hours and after dark. Such vehicles will not be allowed to operate between sunset and sunrise, nor between 7:30-9 a.m. and 3-4:30 p.m. on the following streets: Country Club Drive, Industrial Drive, Autumn Lane, West Gum Street, West Belleville Street, and North and South Main

MARIONCITY COUNCIL

Street.

The second ordinance tightens regulations on golf carts, requiring lights, mirrors, seat belts, brakes and horns. That measure passed unanimously.

In other business, council members approved a resolution supporting a water and wastewater assistance project, appointed Charlie Day to replace Kayla Maxfield on the Chamber of Commerce board, and heard code enforcement updates from officer Tanya Byers.

Byers reported 59 open cases, 10 new complaints and 11 citations totaling more than \$3,000 in fines. She recommended increasing fines to make enforcement more effective.

Councilwoman Wanda Olson said she has fielded complaints about a neighborhood rooster and other chickens, and Byers suggested the city consider a species-specific livestock ordinance. Meanwhile, Browning also addressed flooding issues that plague residents along Hickory Hills Ave. She said recent work by the city has improved the situation, but further mitigation is needed.

Princeton passes similar vehicle law

Princeton has also authorized street legal special purpose vehicles on public roads within city limits where the speed limit is 55 mph or less, effective Aug. 20.

Princeton added extra rules, including limiting operation to daylight hours (sunrise to sunset), no passengers may ride in cargo areas and trailers are prohibited. Operators must follow all federal and state requirements for licensing, safety equipment, insurance and registration. Violations carry fines up to \$100 per incident, and the ordinance applies only inside the city limits.

Fredonia plans to lower tax rate

STAFF REPORT

Fredonia City Council will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4 to receive comments on proposed 2025 property tax rates.

The city’s 2024 real property tax rate was 27.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which produced about \$33,868 in revenue. The proposed 2025 rate is 26.9 cents per \$100, expected to generate \$35,203. The compensating rate is 25.9 cents, which would bring in \$33,894. No new revenue is expected from new property this year.

Revenue from personal property taxes is projected at \$22,490. Any revenue above last year’s collections will go to the city’s general fund for general purposes.



A new park mural commissioned by First United Bank and the Marion-Crittenden County Park Board has been completed by local artist Elizabeth Rodriguez. The image represents Gordon Blue Guess Stadium at the ballpark, which was once home to the Marion Bobcats and now hosts only Crittenden County High School and Middle School baseball. The mural has a captivating 3D appearance and is painted on the side of the restroom facility in the center of the park. Pictured are (from left) First United Bank Branch Manager Charlie Day, Rodriguez and bank representatives Jessica Walker and Addie Kirby.

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Homemakers Annual Meeting | Officer Installation

Crittenden County Homemakers held their annual meeting last week at the Lions Club’s Agriculture Building at the county fairgrounds. During the event, former county president Darl Henley administered the oath of office to new county officers, including Brandi Potter, president; Laurie Holcomb, vice president; Nancy Lanham, secretary; and Nancy Hunt, treasurer. All 2025-26 officers and chairpersons were also introduced. They included Potter, Lanham, Holcomb, Sue Ledford, Monica Wessel, Mona Lozen, Janet Stevens, Debbie Padgett, Henley, Jerrell James, Andrea Clement and Hunt. Members attending the meeting posed for a group photo, representing the many leadership and program areas of the Homemakers organization. They are (front from left) Darl Henley, Claudina Travis, Sarah Ford, Roberta Shewmaker, Brandi Potter, (second row) Diane Ford-Benningfield, Vickie Belt, Monica Wessel, Janet Stevens, Gwen Pruitt, Sue Ledford, Micki Crider, (back) Laurie Holcomb, Debbie Padgett, Mona Lozen, Willa Suggs, Darlene Abell, Edith Harris, Nancy Lanham and Susan Crice.

Florida outlaws extract that Marion is watching

STAFF REPORT

Florida officials have outlawed a concentrated extract of kratom known as 7-hydroxymitragynine, or “7-OH,” classifying it as a Schedule I controlled substance. The emergency rule, issued last week by Florida’s attorney general, makes it illegal to sell, possess or distribute the compound anywhere in that state.

The ruling does not affect raw kratom leaf or powder, which remains legal in Florida and most other parts of the country. Kratom is derived from a Southeast Asian tree and has stimu-

lant-like effects in small doses, but some extracts such as 7-OH have been linked to opioid-type effects. Federal regulators have not yet scheduled the substance, though the FDA has recommended it be banned nationwide.

Meanwhile, convenience stores across Kentucky continue to openly sell kratom products, including capsules and drinks, without restriction. Marion City Council has previously discussed taking its own action against sales here, but so far no ordinance has been passed.

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FEATURING:
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Michelle Crider-Piano
George Whetstone, Viola
Teresa Beavers-Piano
Isaac Carter-Tuba
Cade Crider-Guitar, Vocals
Mitzie Hawthorne-Piano

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Marion City Hall, 217 S. Main St., Marion, KY 42064 | City Council meets in regular session at city hall at 5 p.m., on the third Monday of each month

