

**MARION TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2026 / 7:30PM**

PC MEMBERS PRESENT: JIM ANDERSON – CHAIRPERSON
LARRY FILLINGER – VICE CHAIRPERSON
CHERYL RANGE – SECRETARY
SCOTT LLOYD
BRUCE POWELSON

PC MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: SCOTT RICHARDSON – ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
ZACH MICHELS – TOWNSHIP PLANNER

CALL TO ORDER:

Jim Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

All Planning Commissioners are present.



PUBLIC COMMENT:

Cheryl Range made a comment about the water level in her pond.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2026 AGENDA:

Larry Fillinger requested to remove the agenda item “Election Officers 2026” from the agenda. Larry Fillinger made a motion to approve the March 24, 2026 agenda as amended. Cheryl Range seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2026 MINUTES:

Larry Fillinger made a motion to approve the February 24, 2026 Planning Commission minutes as presented. Cheryl Range seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

1) ACTION ON PLANNING COMMISSION BYLAWS

Larry Fillinger suggested a correction on page 3 and to replace the term “Call to Public” with “Public Comment” throughout the Bylaws and Public Comment policy.

Larry Fillinger made a motion to adopt the revised Planning Commission Bylaws and revised Public Comment Policy. Cheryl Range seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

Scott Richardson will make these adjustments and bring a fresh copy to the April 28th Planning Commission meeting.

2) DISCUSSION OF HYPER SCALE DATA CENTER ORDINANCE UPDATES

Zach Michels suggested requiring two separate special use permits: One SUP for Data Centers that are requesting the use of solar panels to power the data plant and one SUP for the Data Center. Zach also made the following suggestions:

- Allowing Data Centers to have berms and fences.
- Add a section on decommissioning
- Add a section on emergency response
- Add language on security

The Commissioners agreed with Zach. Zach will create this language and have it for the April 28th Planning Commission meeting.

3) DISCUSSION ON CHICKEN ORDINANCE

Commissioners discussed the terms “poultry” versus “chicken”. Jim Anderson distributed his notes on the language Zach Michels created for the Township’s chicken ordinance. Jim Anderson reviewed his suggestions with the Commissioners.

Larry Fillinger made a motion to postpone approval of these changes until the Commissioners have time to review the document that was distributed during the meeting. Bruce Powelson seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

The Planning Commissioners agreed to set a Public Hearing for May, with the assumption they will approve the language in April if they agree on all the changes.

Scott Lloyd made a motion to set a Public Hearing on May 26, 2026 at 7:30pm for Marion Township’s Chicken ordinance. Larry Fillinger seconded.

Roll Call: Powelson: NO; Range: YES; Fillinger: YES; Anderson: YES; Lloyd: YES **4-1 MOTION CARRIED**

4) ACTION ON DEFINITION CHANGE FOR WILD ANIMALS

Bruce Powelson made a motion to postpone discussion on this agenda item until the April 28, 2026 Planning Commission meeting. Larry Fillinger seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

5) UPDATE ON RFQ FOR NEW ZONING ORDINANCE

Scott Richardson provided an update on the RFQ bids received for the Township’s new zoning ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES:

Scott Richardson reminded Commissioners of the MTA meeting about Data Centers on Monday, March 30th at 6pm here at the Township.

Zach Michels discussed some of the newly proposed bills at the State level.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Les Andersen commented on Data Centers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Cheryl Range made a motion to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting at 9:10pm. Larry Fillinger seconded.

5-0 MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Jessica S. Timberlake