



# MINUTES

## City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 6, 2021  
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

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The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Grant Harper, Steve Jensen, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Will Brandt, Rene Gadelha, and Randy Strnad

ABSENT: Colette Atkins

Based on COVID-19 guidance from Linn County Public Health and the State of Iowa to limit the size of groups gathering, this meeting was held electronically. The agenda and City's website provided instructions on how others could participate in the meeting.

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

### PROCLAMATIONS/OATHS

Proclamation - Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April 2021)

Mayor AbouAssaly read and presented the proclamation to Jedd Spidell with the Riverview Center.

### AGENDA

Council discussed the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting with no action taken.

Council Member Atkins arrived at 5:26 p.m.

Council discussed the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting with no action taken.

### OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

#### Flood Plain Development Permit

City Engineer Mike Barkalow stated ITC Midwest will be in Marion to replace multiple structures South of Boyson, West of Alburnett Road. One of the structures is located in a flood plain and so a flood plain development permit will be issued to ITC Midwest. This item is informational only. ITC Midwest will be removing existing lattice tower and replacing it with a Steel Pole structure.

#### Update Regarding the Ward 4 Zoning Map

Community Development Director Tom Treharne provided an update regarding the Ward 4 Zoning Map. Treharne stated there will be a few non-conforming uses with the rezoning but it was determined all the properties found are currently non-conforming uses. There

has been an open house, a press release, social media posts, an email a realtor group and information added to the engineering newsletter. A public hearing will be held next week with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

### **Update Regarding Derecho Damaged Property**

Building Official Gary Hansen provided information regarding Derecho damaged properties in Marion. Back in August it was determined that there were 252 properties that had major damage. Of these, 103 have been repaired, 99 currently under repair, 34 still have minor damage and 16 still have major damage. Next steps include reaching out to the property owners that still have major damage and offer assistance in finding help if needed. Community Development Director Tom Treharne provided information regarding damage to mobile homes and the Patch Program. Treharne encouraged anyone who is struggling in any manner related to Derecho to reach out to Waypoint. Council Member Strnad asked if any of the damaged properties are rentals. Hansen stated none of the numbers presented are rentals. Staff will work with landlords separately. Council Member Strnad asked if any of the properties have lienholders. Hansen was unsure. Council Member Strnad provided information regarding insurance coverage levels. Council Member Atkins commends the staff for working with property owners.

### **Joint Planning Effort with City of Cedar Rapids**

Community Development Director Tom Treharne stated there is an annexation agreement for the area west of Alburnett and around C Avenue regarding how Cedar Rapids and Marion grow together. It's been determined by Cedar Rapids and Marion staff to have a joint study be completed in order to update the land use plans, determine any connectivity issues, sewer and stormwater concerns, and parks and open spaces. At this point there is a draft request for proposal which will be presented to Council once ready. This project is a part of the strategic plan and was budgeted.

### **Removal of Snow, Ice, and Accumulations and Snow Abatement Practices.**

Interim Parks Director Seth Staashelm provided information regard the current policy and practice related to snow removal from sidewalks and proposed changes. Council Member Gadelha agrees that time allowed to remove snow should at least be extended to 24 hours. Gadelha also agrees that regular mail should be used in addition to a door tag. Gadelha is in favor of exploring contractual agreements for this service. Gadelha wants to ensure it is not such a low cost that people become repeat offenders. Council Member Strnad asked what percentage of offenders are rental properties. Staashelm stated he is unsure but believes majority are rental properties. Council Member Strnad stated he is in favor of all proposed changes. Council Member Atkins would like to see that time allowed for snow removal be increased to 36 hours. Atkins also recommended communicating with landlords about snow removal responsibilities. Council Member Gadelha stated the resident she spoke with mentioned he was following recommendations from the National Weather Service to not be outside in negative temperatures. Gadelha asked if language should be added for a weather event with temperatures below zero. Council Member Strnad asked how much time passes between the complaint and when sidewalk is cleared by staff. Staashelm stated approximately seven days.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding personnel matters (City Manager performance evaluation) as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(i) of the Code of Iowa.

Moved by Gadelha, seconded by Harper, to adjourn to closed session as stated above.

City Attorney Kara Bullerman stated that she has reviewed the subject matter to be discussed and found it to be an appropriate topic for closed session. City Manager Lon Pluckhahn requested the closed session. A roll call vote was taken.

Approved unanimously

Moved by Jensen, seconded by Brandt, to reconvene to regular session.

Approved unanimously

**ADJOURN**

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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Nicolas AbouAssay, Mayor

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Rachel Bolender, City Clerk

The undersigned City Clerk of Marion, Iowa certifies that the minutes shown immediately above were published in the Marion Times on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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Rachel Bolender, City Clerk