



MINUTES

City Council Regular Session

5:30 PM - Thursday, December 22, 2022
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in regular session, on Thursday, December 22, 2022, at 5:30 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Steve Jensen, Randy Strnad, Grant Harper, Sara Mentzer, Nicolas AbouAssaly, and Will Brandt

ABSENT: Colette Atkins

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and Council observed a moment of silence.

PROCLAMATIONS/OATHS

No proclamations/oaths took place.

PRESENTATIONS

No presentations took place.

PUBLIC FORUM

Adam Stradt (1045 Kettering Road) spoke in support of the measure accepting Yorkshire Court and the detention basin.

The following comments submitted prior to the meeting were shown: Marcia Sawatzky (3180 Yorkshire Ct) wrote in support of accepting street and detention basin.

Jason Santee (Hall & Hall Engineers) spoke in support of the central corridor review for property located at 2449 7th Avenue (Burger King)

CONSENT AGENDA

Administrative Services

Minutes of the December 6 and 8, 2022 City Council meetings

Receive and file correspondence regarding Leslie Fox's resignation from the Marion Arts Council

Receive and file November 2022 department monthly reports

Payments as presented in the amount of \$1,564,284.24

Resolution No. 31050 approving 457b plan agreement with Equitable Advisors regarding deferred compensation options

Resolution No. 31051 authorizing additional signatures on checks over \$20,000

Resolution No. 31052 approving amendment no. 3 to the agreement with the City of Cedar Rapids regarding the provision of wastewater treatment

Resolution No. 31053 approving an agreement with GovTempsUSA, LLC regarding temporary employment in the Community Development Department.

Resolution No. 31054 approving professional services agreement with Pedersen, Dowie, Clabby and McCausland, Inc. (PDCM) regarding broker services and authorizing payment in an amount not to exceed \$108,000

Resolution No. 31055 approving purchase of computers from CDW Government and authorizing payment in the amount of \$19,589

Mayor AbouAssaly's recommended reappointment/appointments:

- Civil Rights Commission
 - Renae Forsyth-Christy - term expires 12/31/2025
 - Katie Tanner - term expires 12/31/2025
 - Cody Crawford - term expires 12/31/2025
- Marion Area Ambulance Board
 - Fire Chief Tom Fagan

Public Services

Receive and file wastewater treatment rates from the City of Cedar Rapids for Fiscal Year 2024.

Public Safety

Resolution No. 31056 approving a five-year contract with Axon regarding body worn cameras including unlimited storage and redaction assistant license and authorizing payment in the amount of \$325,983.94.

Resolution No. 31057 approving a contract with Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. regarding the facilitation of a fire department community-driven strategic plan and authorizing payment in the amount of \$18,000

Resolution No. 31058 approving purchase of bunker gear from Ed M. Feld Equipment Co. and authorizing payment in an amount not to exceed \$107,200

Resolution No. 31059 approving contract with US Digital Designs regarding fire station alerting with the Marion 911 Communications Center and authorizing payment in the amount of \$12,825

Resolution No. 31060 approving a contract with Image Trend regarding data integration between the new 911 Communications Center's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and the fire department record management system and authorizing payment in the amount of \$3,500

Parks

Receive and file 2022-2023 Parks Operations and Forestry Winter Work Program

Resolution No. 31061 approving a one year renewal of a lease agreement with Greg Carson and Picket Fence Family Farm, for property located at WaterLinn Park 1st Addition, Lot 2 and Lot 3

Receive and file job description for the Recreation Coordinator

Resolution No. 31062 authorizing staff to restructure the recreation division

Engineering

Resolution No. 31063 approving change order no. 2 with Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete LLC regarding the 2022 Pavement Patching Project for a credit in the amount of \$5,250 (TRANS-18-090)

Resolution No. 31064 accepting the 2022 Pavement Patching Project (TRANS-18-090)

Resolution No. 31065 accepting the 2022 Taube Park Project (REC-20-007)

Resolution No. 31066 accepting the 2022 Sanitary CIPP Rehabilitation Project (ANN-18-029)

Resolution No. 31067 accepting paving associated with Rookwood Estates 3rd Addition to the City of Marion

Resolution No. 31068 approving partial payment no. 8 to Anderson Bogert Engineers regarding the Alburnett Road and Echo Hill Road Roundabout Project in the amount of \$3,000 (CS-TSF-4775(641)—85-57) (TRANS-19-118)

Resolution No. 31069 approving partial payment no. 19 to Shoemaker & Haaland regarding Marion/CeMar Trail Construction Management Services in the amount of \$632.94 (TAP-U-4775(638)—81-57) (TRL-17-055)

Resolution No. 31070 approving a stop sign stopping north bound traffic on Aircom Drive at its intersection with Marion Airport Road

Community Development

Resolution No. 31071 rescinding Resolution No. 27374 and approving Whispering Winds Estate Addition Final Plat to Linn County located at 1880 Bloomington Road, Linn County, Iowa (Del and Donna Bucknell)

Resolution No. 31072 approving payment no. 38 to Shoemaker Haaland per the contract for the CeMar Trail in the amount of \$1,025.76 (Iowa DOT Project Number: TAP-U-4475(630)-81-57) (TRL-17-055)

Moved by Harper, seconded by Jensen, to approve consent agenda as shown above.

Approved unanimously

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Brandt at 5:57 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Brandt presided over the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA WITH MAYOR ABOUASSALY'S ABSTENTION

Administrative Services

Resolution No. 31073 consenting to assignment of development agreement and tax increment payments (Barker Financial, LLC to Cobban-Hervey, LLC)

Engineering

Resolution No. 31074 approving change order no. 9 with Peterson Contractors Inc. regarding the 10th Avenue Sidepaths PCC Sidewalk/Trail for a credit in the amount of \$4,404.33 (TAP-U-4775(635)—8I-57) (TRL-18-110)

Resolution No. 31075 accepting paving associated with Hunters Ridge North 2nd Addition to the City of Marion

Moved by Jensen, seconded by Harper, to approve consent agenda with Mayor AbouAssaly's abstention as shown above.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Jensen, Strnad, Harper, Mentzer, and Brandt

Nays: AbouAssaly

Abstained: AbouAssaly

Mayor Pro Tem Brandt relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 5:48 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

Administrative Services

Resolution No. 31076 approving the City of Marion Employee Handbook

Moved by Brandt, seconded by Mentzer, to approve Resolution No. 31076. City Manager Ryan Waller stated staff looked at the residency policy based on comments made during the work session. The handbook has since been updated to state employees must reside within a 70 mile radius from city limits.

Approved unanimously

Ordinance No. 22-24 amending Chapter 31 of the Marion Code of Ordinances relating to the Civil Rights Commission (second consideration)

Moved by Mentzer, seconded by Brandt, to approve the second consideration of Ordinance No. 22-24.

Approved unanimously

Motion to suspend the rules and proceed to the final consideration of Ordinance No. 22-24

Moved by Strnad, seconded by Mentzer, to approve the item referenced above. City Attorney Kara Bullerman stated there is a state deadline to remove certain

provisions before January.

Approved unanimously

Ordinance No. 22-24 amending Chapter 31 of the Marion Code of Ordinances relating to the Civil Rights Commission (final consideration)

Moved by Harper, seconded by Strnad, to approve the final consideration of Ordinance No. 22-24.

Approved unanimously

Public Services

Public Hearing for the Trade Packages associated with the new Public Service Maintenance Facility (FACS-17-069)

Mayor AbouAssaly opened the public hearing regarding item referenced above. Public Services Director Ryan Miller provided a staff report. No comments, written or verbal, were received. Mayor AbouAssaly declared the public hearing closed.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Brandt at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Brandt presided over the meeting.

Motion to approve the project calendar regarding the Public Service Facility Trade Packages as follows (FACS-17- 069):

- Resolution No. 31077 accepting bids and awarding contract to Hawkeye Electric for the Electrical Package associated with the Public Service Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$2,228,960
- Resolution No. 31078 accepting bids and awarding contract to B.G. Brecke for the Mechanical Package associated with the Public Service Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$5,892,630
- Resolution No. 31079 accepting bids and awarding contract to LL Pelling for the Paving Package associated with the Public Service Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$1,242,835
- Resolution No. 31080 accepting bids and awarding contract to T&K Roofing for the Roofing Package associated with the Public Service Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$2,200,000
- Resolution No. 31081 accepting bids and awarding contract to Dan's Overhead Door for the Overhead Door Package associated with the Public Service Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$597,956

Moved by Jensen, seconded by Harper, to approve the project calendar as referenced above.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Jensen, Strnad, Harper, Mentzer, and Brandt

Nays: AbouAssaly

Abstained: AbouAssaly

Mayor Pro Tem Brandt relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 6:02 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Motion to approve the project calendar regarding the Public Service Facility Trade Packages as follows (FACS-17-069):

- Resolution No. 31082 accepting bids and awarding contract to Rathje Construction for the Civil Improvement Package associated with the Public Service Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$1,194,750
- Resolution No. 31083 accepting bids and awarding contract to Millennium Concrete the Building Concrete Package associated with the Public Service Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$3,307,835
- Resolution No. 31084 accepting bids and awarding contract to Portzen Construction for the General Construction Package associated with the Public Service Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$4,430,000

Moved by Mentzer, seconded by Brandt, to approve the project calendar as referenced above. Councilmember Jensen asked who is responsible for modifying the packages. Public Services Ryan Miller stated representatives from Shive-Hattery, Conlon and city staff would work on reviewing the packages.

Failed by the following votes:

Ayes:

Nays: Mentzer, Brandt, Jensen, Strnad, Harper, and AbouAssaly

Resolution No. 31085 rejecting bids and further authorizing staff to rebid for the following packages associated with the Public Service Maintenance Facility: Civil Improvement, Building Concrete, and the General Construction.(FACS-17-069)

Moved by Strnad, seconded by Mentzer, to approve Resolution No. 31085.

Approved unanimously

Community Development

Public hearing regarding an amendment to Chapter 176, Zoning Regulations to establish Ch. 176.56, Architectural Design Standards and Site Development Plan Review (continued from Dec. 8, 2022)

Mayor AbouAssaly opened the public hearing regarding item referenced above. Nick Glew (MEDCO President) spoke in support of the design standards. No other comments, written or verbal, were received. Mayor AbouAssaly stated the public hearing will remain open.

Ordinance No. 22-25 amending Chapter 176, Zoning Regulations to establish Ch. 176.56, Architectural Design Standards and Site Development Plan Review (second consideration)

Moved by Harper, seconded by Strnad, to approve the second consideration of Ordinance No. 22-25.

Approved unanimously

Motion to accept the dedication of Yorkshire Court a private street and private detention basin subject to the replat of the Coves at English Glen Final Plat (Adam Stradt)

Moved by Jensen, seconded by Harper, to approve the item as referenced

above. Councilmember Jensen stated that he has concerns with the paved surface discrepancies.

Failed by the following votes:

Ayes:

Nays: Jensen, Strnad, Harper, Mentzer, AbouAssaly, and Brandt

Resolution No. 31086 approving the central corridor review for property located at 2449 7th Avenue, Marion Iowa (Burger King, Beaton Holding Co LC)

Moved by Brandt, seconded by Mentzer, to approve Resolution No. 31086.

Approved unanimously

Public hearing to discuss applications for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) housing funds and to collect input for a Community Development and Housing Needs Assessment

Mayor AbouAssaly opened the public hearing regarding item referenced above.

Kesha Billings stated the following language was added to the resolution relating to the Belltower Lofts project:

WHEREAS, the Belltower Lofts Housing Project seeks to save a historic landmark, that is the soul of our community, and

WHEREAS, given that it is a historic structure previously occupied as a church there are various aspects that necessitate approval through the City's advisory boards and commissions to ensure compliance and compatibility with the code and surrounding neighborhood, and

WHEREAS, the City and the Belltower Lofts Housing Project applicant desire to create a project that enhances and promotes the right balance of residential and commercial uses that are compatible with the community's recent revitalization of its historic Central Business District; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Belltower Lofts Housing Project applicant have a desire to work together with each other and community partners to address zoning, parking and the incorporation of commercial space (up to 3,000 sq. ft.)

Paula Mitchell with East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) provided the following information:

1. How the need for the proposed activity or project was identified.

Marion has determined that new construction of housing for sale, and new construction of rental housing, are critical to the recovery of the region from the August 2020 derecho, and to ease the overall housing shortage that exists in the community. Marion has been engaged in recovery efforts and assessing recovery needs ever since the 2020 disaster event. The City of Marion is represented at the Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP-AID) group, which

meets to share data and information and coordinate response after a disaster event. Marion also coordinated with organizations such as Marion Cares to assess unmet needs, and the Marion Community Development Director participated in regular meetings of a working group of agencies and services providers assisting homeowners in the region with derecho repairs through a program known as Providing Assistance to Community Homeowners (PATCH).

In addition, the City of Marion retained Maxfield Research & Associates to complete an updated Housing Needs Analysis for the community, which identified a need for 300-375 for sale single family and multi-family units, 150-200 shallow subsidy rental units, 55-80 active adult shallow subsidy rental units, and 70-80 independent living units with services in the market area within the next 3-5 years.

2. How the proposed activity or project will be funded and the source of the funds.

The Ridge at Indian Creek 2nd Addition Project (owner-occupied, for sale housing) will be funded by conventional financing secured by the developer, developer contribution, and a request for \$3,269,820.00 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Funding.

The Winslow House Senior Apartments project (rental housing) will be funded by conventional financing secured by the developer, developer contribution, and a request for \$2,470,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding.

The Hoth Flats project (rental housing) will be funded by conventional financing secured by the developer, developer contribution, and a request for \$1,900,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding.

The Belltower Lofts project (rental housing) will be funded by conventional financing secured by the developer, developer contribution, and a request for \$3,385,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding.

3. The date the CDBG-DR application will be submitted.

The applications will be submitted online no later than December 30, 2022.

4. Amount of federal funds to be requested.

The amount of federal funds to be requested for the Ridge at Indian Creek 2nd Addition Project is \$3,269,820.00.

The amount of federal funds to be requested for the Winslow House Project is \$2,470,000.00.

The amount of federal funds to be requested for the Hoth Flats project is

\$1,900,000.00.

The amount of federal funds to be requested for the Belltower Lofts project is \$3,385,000.00.

5. Estimated portion of federal funds that will benefit persons of low and moderate income.

One hundred percent of the funds for the Ridge at Indian Creek 2nd Addition Project will benefit households with incomes at or below 80 percent of the area's median income level.

At least 51% of the funds for each of the rental projects will benefit households with incomes at or below 80 percent of the area's median income level. This includes the Winslow House, Hoth Flats and Belltower Lofts projects.

6. Where the proposed activity or project will be.

The proposed activities will be located at the following locations:

- The Ridge at Indian Creek 2nd Addition – North of Lucre Road and northwest of Tower Terrace Road extended, Marion, IA
- Winslow House – 3456 Indian Creek Road, Marion IA
- Hoth Flats – 801 10th Street Marion, IA
- Belltower Lofts – 1277 8th Avenue, Marion, IA

7. Plans to minimize displacement of persons and businesses as a result of funded activities or projects.

Because none of the proposed project sites are currently occupied, no displacement of residents or businesses is expected to occur. The land for all proposed projects is owned by the developers or a development partner. The City of Marion has a previously adopted Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, which will be updated as needed if projects receive federal CDBG-DR funding. The City of Marion will comply with its adopted policies and all applicable laws and regulations.

8. Plans to assist persons actually displaced.

Again, because none of the proposed project sites are currently occupied, no displacement of persons is expected to occur directly as a result of this project. The City of Marion will comply with its adopted Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan and all applicable laws and regulations.

9. The nature of the proposed activity or project.

The purpose of the CDBG-DR New Resilient Affordable Housing Program is intended to help communities meet replacement housing needs created by the August 10, 2020 derecho event. Affordable for sale housing constructed through this program must remain affordable for 15 years. Affordable rental housing constructed through this program must remain affordable for 15 years if there are fewer than 5 units, and for 20 years if there are 5 or more units.

The proposed activities are as follows:

Project	Housing Type	Total Units Created
The Ridge at Indian Creek - 2nd Addition	Affordable For Sale Housing (owner-occupied)	20
Winslow House Senior Apartments	Affordable Rental Housing (senior housing)	26
Hoth Flats	Affordable Rental Housing	20
Belltower Lofts	Affordable Rental Housing	30

Maximum federal dollars to be spent per home for new construction costs is \$100,000.00 for owner-occupied homes and \$75,000.00 per unit for rental projects plus up to \$70,000 per unit for infrastructure in support of housing. Additional incentives for mitigation are up to \$25,000.00 per unit for owner-occupied homes and up to \$15,000.00 per unit for rental projects. Down payment assistance is available for buyers of for sale housing up to \$35,000.00 per unit. Additional funding is available for project delivery. The federal funds utilized for new construction will be secured by forgivable loans in order to secure affordability periods of 15-20 years.

All units constructed using CDBG-DR funding must first be marketed for four months to persons who were impacted by the August 2020 derecho before being offered to other eligible members of the public.

Paula Mitchell with ECICOG had discussion with Council regarding the Community Development and Housing Needs Assessment:

Description of the Housing Market in the Community

- 16,821 residential dwellings in Marion
 - 72 % owner occupied
 - 20% rental
 - 8% mobile homes
- Typical single family home value is \$243,383, up 27% from 2 years prior
- Homes average 16 days on the market
- 36% of renters are cost burdened and of those, nearly half are severely cost burdened
- Homeowner vacancy rate is 0.6% and rental vacancy rate is 1-2%

Disaster Recovery & Housing Improvement Activities Completed, Last 5 Years

- Immediate disaster response - Coordination with Linn County Emergency Management, Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster, Marion Cares, and PATCH working group.

- Spring 2020, 2021, and 2022 – Marion Housing Assistance Grant Program; up to \$20,000 of grant funding available through the Marion Civil Rights Commission to fund new housing programs in Marion.
- September 2022 - \$500,000 in HOME funds awarded to Community Housing Initiatives (CHI) to develop mixed income apartments in Marion

Impact on Disaster Recovery

- Derecho caused \$10 million in damages to residential homes and \$25 million to multifamily properties in Linn County
- More than 3000 homes significantly damaged or destroyed in Linn County
- At least 542 demolition permits issued in Linn County
- Proposed projects would add 20 new affordable single family, for-sale units and up to 76 affordable rental units throughout Marion
- All units designed to be more resilient, energy efficient, and to better withstand future disaster events

Community Development and Housing Needs of Low- to Moderate-Income Persons

No one from the public came forward to speak. Paula Mitchell made the following recommendations.

1. Prioritize rehabilitation of the existing housing stock, particularly the 42% built prior to 1990 and those owned by 25% of homeowners in Marion who are also low- to-moderate-income persons.
2. Increase opportunity for home purchases for low- to-moderate income homebuyers through partnerships and development programs with affordable housing components. The typical home value in Marion is \$243,383 compared to the average value in Iowa of \$199,388, making home ownership in Marion less attractive than neighboring communities. The Housing Needs Analysis for the City of Marion prepared by Maxfield Research and Consulting provided recommendations to meet housing needs through 2030, concluding that it is becoming “increasingly difficult for entry level buyers to find starter homes at an affordable price,” that price increases were attributed to a lower number of homes available in the market and that “developing new housing products that would target first time homebuyers in locations in proximity to schools are likely to be highly successful.”
3. Increased opportunity for affordable rental units for low- to-moderate income renters through partnerships and development programs with affordable housing components. In Marion, 76% of renters are low- to-moderate income persons.
4. Housing affordability supported through zoning, permitting, and technical assistance.
5. Increased age-restricted (55+) housing opportunities. There are currently five deep-subsidy and two shallow-subsidy age-restricted housing facilities in Marion. The vacancy rates for subsidy properties is 0%. The Housing Needs Analysis for the City of Marion concluded that current demand exists for 93 additional units of shallow-subsidy age-restricted housing.
6. Enhanced public service delivery to accommodate the needs of low- and - moderate-income persons, such as library facilities, recreation activities, energy improvements, and access to broadband.

Other Community Development and Housing Needs

No one from the public came forward to speak. Paula Mitchell made the following recommendations.

1. Increased opportunities for economic development through efficient and well-maintained infrastructure.
2. Enhanced business opportunities to increase local workforce participation through improved transportation, education, and private investment. The latest data available in 2019 indicated there were an estimated 11,404 jobs in Marion, only 23.4% of these workers lived and worked in Marion.
3. Expanded housing options for those over age 65 who are 16% of the population in Marion. Senior citizens require adequate housing alternatives to remain in the community as they age. Expanded rehabilitation opportunities for those over 65 to make homes safer and energy efficient while improving older existing housing stock. There are two new active adult, 55 or older, independent living properties in Marion (Arbor at Lindale and Blairs Ferry Senior Housing) which both have waiting lists.
4. Expanded owner-occupied and rental housing options to accommodate existing population and future growth. The current vacancy rate in Marion, the homeowner vacancy rate is 0.6% and the rental vacancy rate is 1-2%. The majority, 75%, of rental units in Marion are single-family units as compared to the surrounding Cedar Rapids Metro area where only 23% of rental units are single-family.

Planned or Potential Activities to Address Housing and Community Needs

No one from the public came forward to speak. Paula Mitchell made the following recommendations.

1. Apply for funding under the Community Development Block Grant-DR Program to increase housing options for low- to-moderate-income households.
2. Prioritize Street, park/recreation, and public service improvements to make the best use public dollars and provide amenities and opportunities to attract and retain residents through the continued implementation of the Uptown Master Plan.
 - Continue to expand and promote recreational activities in Uptown District to support economic vitality.
 - Commission a Parking Strategic Plan to address near-term strategies to improve management opportunities through public engagement process.
 - Expand the Artway and dedicate space for a multipurpose Uptown Plaza.
 - Complete phase 4 and 5 of the Cemar Trail and complete Lucore Road Pedestrian Bridge and Sidepath.
 - Future improvement to the 11th Street and 10th Street transition south of Uptown, a significant arterial route.
 - North-South Bicycle Route through Uptown along 11th Street from the south and reconnect with 10th Street at 9th allowing bicycles to access the central business district.
3. Continue to update and review Strategic Plan (2021-2023) and Capital Improvement Projects to establish or expand services enhancing public safety and ensuring services are provided at affordable rates for persons with low- to-

moderate income. In 2022 these include:

- Upgrades to public safety information management system.
- The new Marion Public Library.
- \$2.2 million in neighborhood street improvements.
- Part-time staff to increase programming at the new YMCA in Marion.

4. Seek other public assistance for housing development/rehabilitation assistance and, as appropriate, pursue mutual benefit agreements with private for-profit and non-profit entities to achieve benefits that address housing and community development needs.

Date and location assessment was prepared: City of Marion City Council Meeting on December 22, 2022

Number of local residents participating: 0

Jill Ackerman (Marion Chamber of Commerce, 1070 7th Avenue) spoke regarding the Belltower Lofts project and spoke in support of the design and stated the best use would be to have more commercial tenants in the building but agrees that funds are needed to help save the building. Mayor AbouAssaly stated he received comments from the developer that stated they would carve out 1000 square feet. No other comments, written or verbal, were received. Mayor AbouAssaly declared the public hearing closed.

Resolution No. 31087 authorizing and directing East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) to submit an application and associated documents for funding for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Housing Program (CDBG-DR) to the Iowa Economic Development Authority for the Hoth Flats Housing Project and authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute all documents required for the application

Moved by Mentzer, seconded by Harper, to approve Resolution No. 31087.
Approved unanimously

Resolution No. 31088 authorizing and directing East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) to submit an application and associated documents for funding for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Housing Program (CDBG-DR) to the Iowa Economic Development Authority for the Winslow House Senior Apartments Housing Project and authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute all documents required for the application

Moved by Strnad, seconded by Mentzer, to approve Resolution No. 31088.
Approved unanimously

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Brandt at 6:50 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Brandt presided over the meeting.

Resolution No. 31089 authorizing and directing East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) to submit an application and associated documents for funding for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Housing Program (CDBG-DR) to the Iowa Economic Development Authority for The Ridge at Indian Creek 2nd Addition Townhouses Housing Project and authorizing

the Mayor to sign and execute all documents required for the application
Moved by Harper, seconded by Jensen, to approve Resolution No. 31089.
Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Jensen, Strnad, Harper, Mentzer, and Brandt

Nays: AbouAssaly

Abstained: AbouAssaly

Resolution No. 31090 authorizing and directing East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) to submit an application and associated documents for funding for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Housing Program (CDBG-DR) to the Iowa Economic Development Authority for the Belltower Lofts Housing Project and authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute all documents required for the application

Moved by Jensen, seconded by Harper, to approve Resolution No. 31090. Councilmember Harper stated he is in support to take any action needed to keep this structure but there are parking, zoning and commercial issues that need to be addressed as this project progresses. Councilmember Jensen is in favor of saving this historic building but also believes there is a serious parking concern with this project. Councilmember Mentzer support keeping the application moving forward but do wish there was more commercial.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Jensen, Strnad, Harper, Mentzer, and Brandt

Nays: AbouAssaly

Abstained: AbouAssaly

Mayor Pro Tem Brandt relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 6:59 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

No other discussion took place.

PUBLIC FORUM

Gary Sneller (829 74th St NE, Cedar Rapids) thanked the City Council for the Equity Initiative Progress Report that was presented at the Tuesday work session.

Ana Clymer (2475 McGowan Blvd) spoke in support of the Equity Initiative 2022 Progress Report.

Circe Stumbo (339 Pheasant Avenue) acknowledged the equity report and looks forward to further conversation.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Strnad stated this is the last council meeting for the year and looks

forward to continuing the momentum in the next year. He wished everyone happy holidays and thanked everyone who is helping clear the streets.

Councilmember Mentzer wished everyone happy holidays and thanked all city staff for their hard work.

Councilmember Brandt also wished everyone happy holidays.

Councilmember Jensen also wished everyone happy holidays.

Councilmember Harper also wished everyone happy holidays.

Mayor AbouAssaly stated he has met with a lot of students the past couple weeks, attended a few ribbon-cutting ceremonies, and toured the trees forever facility. He stated he is grateful to be a part of the Marion team and is proud of everything accomplished this past year. He thanked City Manager Ryan Waller for all his hard work to keep Marion moving forward. He also wished everyone happy holidays.

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Nicolas AbouAssaly, Mayor

Rachel Bolender, City Clerk

The undersigned City Clerk of Marion, Iowa certifies that the minutes shown immediately above were published in the Gazette on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Rachel Bolender, City Clerk