



# MINUTES

## City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, December 20, 2022  
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, December 20, 2022, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: None

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **Presentation Regarding the 2022 MEDCO Annual Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Report**

MEDCO President Nick Glew provided information regarding real estate development and new construction in 2022. Brady Quinn with MEDCO provided an overview of retention and expansion statistics for the past year. Emily Russ with MEDCO reviewed the work done with the Community Promise initiative. Councilmember Jensen stated he would like students to see the types of jobs that are available at businesses in Marion. Glew stated getting back into the classroom is important and it would be great to give students more exposure of available jobs in Marion.

### AGENDA

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

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Brandt at 4:57 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Brandt presided over the meeting.

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

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

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

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Brandt at 6:03 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Brandt presided over the meeting.

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

Councilmember Atkins left the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Brandt relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 6:51 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

## **OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION**

### **Update regarding Equity Initiative Progress Report**

Deputy City Manager Kim Downs provided information regarding progress made in 2022 relating to the Community Equity Task Force recommendations and other notable items related to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Brandt at 6:57 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Brandt presided over the meeting.

### **Discussion Regarding a Proposal to Restructure the Recreation Division**

Parks Director Seth Staashelm provided an overview of a proposed restructure within the department due to the recreation supervisor vacancy. Staashelm outlined potential costs of the restructure and a program revenue forecast. City Attorney Kara Bullerman stated a resolution authorizing staff to proceed will be added to the agenda on Thursday.

### **Discussion Regarding General Annexation Practices**

Associate Planner Kesha Billings provided information relating to annexation including the methods to annex property, service changes to annexed areas and tax implications. Councilmember Strnad asked if we should look at the ten year tax transition as it relates to agriculture land. Billings stated that ten year transition only applies to residential property and does not apply to agriculture land.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding a real estate transaction and litigation as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(j) and Section 21.5(1)(c) of the Code of Iowa (two separate matters)

Moved by Strnad, 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. A roll call vote was taken.

Approved by the following votes:

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

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

Approved unanimously

## **ADJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Brandt adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Will Brandt, Mayor Pro Tem

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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 Gazette on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Bolender, City Clerk