



# MINUTES

## City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, March 21, 2023  
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, March 21, 2023, at 4:08 p.m., 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.

### **OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION**

#### **Discussion and Direction Regarding the Purchasing Policy**

Purchasing Coordinator Rita Packingham reviewed the changes being proposed in the purchasing policy including approval authority and disposal authority. Councilmember Harper asked if it's possible to have a report on what internal change orders are approved so the City Council is aware of the changes. Finance Director Lianne Cairy stated that Finance Department staff will look at possible reports that can be provided. Councilmember Brandt agreed and stated perhaps it is only for public improvement projects. Packingham stated next steps include completing the internal review, rescinding conflicting policies and approval of the new policy.

*(Audio recording note: Due to technical difficulties at time of meeting, the audio recording does not record quality audio until the 16:10 minute mark. The discussion regarding the purchasing policy is already in progress at that time.)*

#### **Discussion and Direction Regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

Finance Director Lianne Cairy provided information regarding the proposed budget including property tax and taxable valuations. Councilmember Jensen asked for more information about the emergency levy. City Manager Ryan Waller stated it would be a decision point each budget cycle to keep the emergency levy or not. Fire Chief Tom Fagan provided an update regarding the possible grant program to help cover costs for new firefighters. He stated due to data limitations, staff will not be able to submit an application for grant funds but will continue looking at other funding opportunities. Councilmember Jensen stated he would be in support of including the emergency levy in the public hearing notice but then discussing the emergency levy at the next meeting. Councilmember Atkins stated she would not be in support of the emergency levy. Councilmember Strnad would be more in support of the franchise fee increase versus the emergency levy. Councilmember Mentzer understands why the emergency levy will be

beneficial but is still deciding if it should be utilized or not.

**Discussion and Direction Regarding Compensation Study Pay Plan Design**

Lexi Scholten and Jada Kent with BakerTilly provided an updated regarding the compensation study. Human Resources Manager Lucas Sperfslage provided pay plan design recommendations and next steps.

**Discussion and direction regarding Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE)**

Deputy Police Chief Chad Nott outlined the provisions being added to an ordinance regarding ATE cameras as well as what would be included in the policy such as the appeal process and when the mobile unit will be utilized. Councilmember Jensen stated he would like to see more complaints needed prior to deployment of the mobile unit. Councilmember Atkins agrees that more complaints should be needed. Councilmember Brandt asked how additional locations for cameras would be determined. City Manager Ryan Waller stated it could be based on council direction or it could be brought forward by staff if there is an intersection of concern.

**UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW**

**Discussion Regarding the March 23, 2023 Agenda**

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

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Harper at 6:29 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Harper presided over the meeting.

Council continued discussion regarding the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting with no action taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Harper relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 6:47 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Council continued discussion regarding the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting with no action taken.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

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

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Rachel Bolender, City Clerk