



# MINUTES

## City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, November 7, 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, November 7, 2023, 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, Sara Mentzer, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: Randy Strnad

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **Presentation regarding the Winter Lights Program**

Elyssa McDowell, Torri Freese and Nicole Eales, members of the 2023-2024 Marion Leadership in Action Class, spoke regarding the Winter Lights project and stated they are seeking a match from the City up to \$20,000. Councilmember Mentzer asked how those interested can donate. Freese stated a link is available through the Marion Chamber of Commerce website.

#### **Update Regarding Solid Waste Collection Study and Review of Next Steps for Cart Procurement**

Jeff Phillips with SCS Engineers provided information about cart procurement and plans for future outreach. A timeline was also shared which included a potential implementation rollout in September 2024.

### OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

#### **Budget Discussion: Capital Improvement Program (CIP) FY25-29**

Deputy Finance Director Brian McKenzie provided an overview of the CIP timeline and project ranking criteria. The top 22 staff recommended projects were shown as well as four additional projects for council consideration. Councilmember Jensen asked that a five year projection on the debt service levy be provided. Councilmember Jensen stated he would be in support of adding the full activation of the Irish Drive and Tower Terrace traffic signal. Mayor AbouAssaly stated he would like to wait on paving the 9th Street Parking Lot until we have results from the parking study and staff have connected with the businesses about use of that lot. Councilmember Mentzer stated she agrees with the comments about activation of the Irish Drive and Tower Terrace traffic signal and is in support of including the 31st Street and 29th Avenue roundabout. Finance Director Lianne Cairry stated more in depth conversations will be held at the budget work session.

in January.

**Budget Discussion: Asset Replacement Program**

Deputy Finance Director Brian McKenzie provided an overview about the asset replacement program including vehicles, equipment, technology and furniture. Estimate expenditures and cash flow models were provided. Various short term and long term steps were shared.

**Discussion and Direction Regarding the Vacant Building Fee Structure**

Building Division Manager Gary Hansen provided a review of proposed fees for the upcoming Vacant Building Ordinance and Policy. Council did not have any changes to the proposed fees.

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Harper at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Harper presided over the meeting.

**UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW**

City Council review of the November 9, 2023 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding litigation and personnel matters as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(c) and Section 21.5(1)(i) of the Code of Iowa (two separate matters)

Moved by Mentzer, seconded by Brandt, 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 unanimously

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

Approved unanimously

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Harper adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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