



# MINUTES

## City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, December 5, 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, December 5, 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, Randy Strnad, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: None

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

### **OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION**

#### **Discussion and Direction Regarding Recommended Cart Sizes for Automated Curbside Collection Services**

Jeff Phillips with SCS Engineers provided an overview of the available cart sizes and comparable data. Phillips stated it is recommended to have the large 64-68 gallon carts for garbage and recycling with the opt-in size of medium 46-48 gallon carts. For yard waste, the opt-in size would be the large 64-68 gallon cart. Councilmember Strnad shared concerns about offering larger carts and a possible increase of the amount of waste which would in turn increase charges at the landfill. Phillips stated the larger carts should not increase the amount of garbage but instead will change habits. Councilmember Mentzer asked how current garbage and recycle bins would be collected as well as yard waste bags that people may have. Phillips stated those items will come later when policies and procedures are discussed. Councilmember Brandt stated he would like to know costs before agreeing on which cart size to move forward with. Deputy City Manager Kim Downs stated in order to complete the financial modeling, staff will need direction on which carts to move forward with based on the data that has been collected. She stated any purchase of bins will be brought back to City Council.

#### **Presentation Regarding 2023 National Community Survey Results**

Communications Manager Amber Bisinger provided an overview of the above referenced survey results. Highlights were discussed regarding the economy, community design, safety, parks and recreation, health and wellness, inclusivity and engagement and more. Councilmember Mentzer stated she would like to dig deeper into the items that dropped as well as see an overview of the respondents and how we can address the concerns.

#### **Discussion and Direction Regarding Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule**

Parks Director Seth Staashelm provided an overview of suggested fee changes in the department. Staashelm stated changes are based on inflation, comparable city data and

cost recovery strategies. Finance Director Lianne Cairry stated each department is looking at their fees as some have not updated fees in several years. All fees will be reviewed annually.

### **Presentation Regarding Winter Snow/Ice Control Operations**

Deputy City Manager Kim Downs provided an overview of the operations related to snow/ice control in Marion. Councilmember Jensen stated the snowplow equipment is dated and asked if they'll make it another season. Deputy Public Services Director John Hughes stated trucks have been purchased and should be ready to be used in January.

### **UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW**

City Council review of the December 7, 2023 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Harper at 5:58 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Harper presided over the meeting.

Council continued discussion of Thursday's agenda items with no action taken.

Regarding the item concerning development agreement for the Belltower Lofts Project, Councilmember Jensen stated he has voiced his concerns about the parking since the beginning. He asked if the agreement is approved, would the City still be able to make parking an ongoing area of discussion. Principal Planner Dave Hockett stated with the zoning they are seeking, parking will continue to be discussed and controlled by the City. Mayor Pro Tem Harper stated he has spoken to Kesha Billings about some of the terms and conditions within the agreement and she satisfied all of his concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Harper relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 5:59 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding real estate transactions as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(j) of the Code of Iowa.

Moved by Harper, seconded by Jensen, 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

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

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

Approved unanimously

### **ADJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Harper adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
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