



# MINUTES

## City Council Special Session

8:30 AM - Friday, January 26, 2024  
Fire Station No. 1, 100 Irish Drive

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The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in special session, on Friday, January 26, 2024, at 8:30 AM, at Fire Station No. 1, 100 Irish Drive, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: None

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

### REGULAR AGENDA

Discussion regarding the fiscal year 2025 budget and capital improvement program.

City Manager Ryan Waller provided an overview of budget directives, impacts on the budget and information about property tax. Staff provided overviews of their department or division accomplishments during 2023 and the budgetary drivers for the fiscal year 2025 budget.

Mayor AbouAssaly declared a recess at 9:53 a.m.

Mayor AbouAssaly reconvened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Council continued discussion of the fiscal year 2025 budget with no action taken. Staff provided overviews of their department or division accomplishments during 2023 and the budgetary drivers for the fiscal year 2025 budget. Finance Director Lianne Cairy reviewed revenues, rollback impacts, levy impacts and changes to health insurance.

Mayor AbouAssaly declared a recess at 11:34 a.m.

Mayor AbouAssaly reconvened the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Council continued discussion of the fiscal year 2025 budget with no action taken. Staff covered the budgets for proprietary funds. Deputy Finance Director Brian McKenzie provided information regarding the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) including projects and funding. Finance Director Lianne Cairy provided an overview of other funds including hotel/motel, special revenue, urban renewal areas and funds that have limited or no activity.

City Manager Ryan Waller went through each of the items requiring more direction from council. Council discussed the funded new requests, wage increases, civil rights grant, hotel/motel grant program, financial policies and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Council was in support of moving forward with funded new requests as recommended. Council was in support of the recommended budgeted increases for non-bargaining employees. Council was in support of Option A (\$60,000 in fiscal year 2024 and pause for one to two years) on how to fund the civil rights grant. A majority of Council was in support of the recommendation as it relates to the hotel/motel fund. Councilmember Mentzer stated she is not in support of funding positions long-term from hotel/motel funds. Council was in support of the recommended financial policy changes. A majority of Council was in support of the recommended CIP plus adding the Irish Drive Traffic Signal Activation project.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 2:18 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