



# MINUTES

## City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, August 20, 2024  
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, August 20, 2024, 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.

### PROCLAMATIONS/OATHS

#### **Police Department Promotion: Officer Thomas Peterson to Sergeant**

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller spoke about the sergeant position, shared Peterson's accomplishments and recognized his promotion.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **Annual Presentation of the Marion Civil Rights Commission**

Commission Chair Renae Forsyth-Christy provided an overview of the Commission's accomplishments this past year and information about the Low to Moderate Income Housing Assistance Grant Program. Mayor AbouAssaly congratulated the Commission on celebrating 10 years.

### OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

#### **Budget Discussion: Preliminary FY24 Annual Report including Capital Improvement Program**

Finance Director Lianne Cairy provided an overview of the preliminary annual report for FY24 including variances from the general and proprietary funds. Information regarding the Capital Improvement Program including variances and completed projects were also provided.

#### **Discussion and Direction Regarding Fire Department Emergency Response Time Targets**

Fire Chief Tom Fagan provided a 2022-2023 Action Plan update and stated the key objective moving forward is to establish a formal travel time benchmark. Management Analyst Jamie Doyle provided statistics regarding travel time in the region and comparable communities. Fagan stated it is recommended to set the benchmark for

Marion at four minutes. Councilmember Jensen asked if the department will be looking at a total response time benchmark. Fagan stated each component that makes up total response time will be looked at individually. Council was in agreement to move forward with a four minute travel time benchmark.

### **Discussion and Direction Regarding Artist Selection for the Central Plaza Art Sculpture**

Recreation Superintendent Karlene Hummel provided an overview on the steps completed to date regarding the art sculpture for Central Plaza. It is the recommendation of the selection committee to move forward with Gavin and Kelly Brodin. The committee will work with the artist to have the final sculpture be heavily inspired by nature and natural elements. Councilmember Jensen asked how close this structure is to the existing statue. Parks Director Seth Staashelm stated the existing statue is 30-40 feet away. Councilmember Harper spoke about other items in the area like electrical boxes. Staashelm stated there will be a lot of plants in the area that will help hide the immovable elements. Councilmember Mentzer spoke more about the selection process and how the artist was chosen. It was consensus of Council to move forward with the recommended artist. Staashelm stated there will be touchpoints throughout the process and staff get Council's approval of the final design.

### **Update Regarding the Timeline for the Automated Garbage and Recycling Program**

Public Services Director Mike Barkalow provided an update regarding the above referenced program. The timeline from now until October was also shared. Councilmember Jensen asked if there has been a solution found for what residents can do with existing containers. Solid Waste & Recycling Manager Matt Tielebein stated they have found a vendor that will recycle the current blue recycling containers. The only thing not decided yet is how and when recycling will take place.

### **UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW**

City Council review of the August 22, 2024 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding litigation and real estate transactions as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(c) and Section 21.5(1)(j) of the Code of Iowa. (Three separate items)

Moved by Brandt, seconded by Mentzer, 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 and relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer at 6:48 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer presided over the meeting.

Moved by Miskimen, seconded by Harper, to reconvene to regular session.

Approved unanimously

### **ADJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer adjourned the meeting at 7:06 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