



MINUTES

City Council Regular Session

5:30 PM - Thursday, December 7, 2023

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in regular session, on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 5:30 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: None

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and Council observed a moment of silence.

PROCLAMATIONS/OATHS

Proclamation - International Human Rights Day (December 10, 2023)

Mayor AbouAssaly read and presented the proclamation referenced above to Angelica Vannatta with the Marion Civil Rights Commission.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one came forward to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Administrative Services

Minutes of the November 21, 2023 City Council meeting

Liquor license as follows:

- Renewal - Mandarin Spice Buffet & Grill - 1412 Twixt Town Road

Payments as presented in the amount of \$4,944,371.91

Mayor AbouAssaly's recommended reappointments/appointment:

- Arts Council
 - Ingrid Branez Condorena, term expires 12/31/26
- Construction Code Review Board
 - Jim Burm, term expires 12/31/27
 - Mark Morgan, term expires 12/31/27
- Financial Oversight Committee
 - Chad Mitten, term expires 12/31/26

- Sara Bearrows, term expires 12/31/26
 - Blake Wilkinson, term expires 12/31/26
 - Ted Steger, term expires 12/31/26
 - Barry Frantz, term expires 12/31/26
- Historic Preservation Committee
 - Nick Dusil, term expires 12/31/26
- Nuisance Advisory/Property Maintenance Review Board
 - Grant Guyer, term expires 12/31/26
 - James Hoth, term expires 12/31/26
- Park Board
 - Patty Wise, term expires 12/31/27
 - Amy Hussel, term expires 12/31/27
- Planning and Zoning Commission
 - Seth Moomey, term expires 12/31/28
 - Bradley Neilly, term expires 12/31/28
- Public Services Board
 - Joe Spinks, term expires 12/31/25
 - Craig Adamson, term expires 12/31/25
- Water Board
 - John McIntosh, term expires 12/31/29
- Zoning Board of Adjustment
 - Charles Kent, term expires 12/31/28
 - Angela Jordan, term expires 12/31/28

Resolution No. 31711 approving three year agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) for GIS software and authorizing payment in the amount of \$119,100

Resolution No. 31712 approving the addition of Staci Vigil as an authorized signer on the City's financial accounts

Resolution No. 31713 approving an amended Naming Policy

Resolution No. 31714 approving a Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation and the associated Title VI Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

Resolution No. 31715 approving an amended agreement with the City Manager

Receive and file correspondence regarding Megan Middaugh's resignation from the Civil Rights Commission

Parks

Receive and file the 2023-2024 Park Operations and Urban Forestry Winter Work Program

Engineering

Resolution No. 31716 approving a stop sign stopping southbound traffic on Timber Ridge Court at its intersection with East Robins Road

Resolution No. 31717 accepting the 2022 3rd Avenue Reconstruction Project (NSI) (TRANS-18-090)

Motion to approve project calendar regarding the 2024 Storm Sewer Project as follows:

- Motion approving Resolution of Necessity and to retain the City Engineer as Project Engineer regarding the 2024 Storm Sewer Project (ANN-18-031 & ANN-25-001)
- Motion approving filing of plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost, advertising for bids by posting notice to bidders, and authorizing City officials or designees to receive and open bids regarding the 2024 Storm Sewer Project (ANN-18-031 & ANN-25-001)
- Motion setting public hearing and directing publication thereof for 2024 Storm Sewer Project (ANN-18-031 & ANN-25-001)

Community Development

Resolution No. 31718 approving the Stonefield 8th Addition Final Plat and memorandum of agreement for property located south of Tower Terrace Road and west of Stonefield Drive (Synergy Equity Partners, LLC)

Resolution No. 31719 approving Amendment One to Grant Agreement between the Iowa Economic Development Authority and City of Marion related to the Destination Iowa Outdoor Recreation Grant for The Central Plaza and Regional Trail Connection Project

Moved by Brandt, seconded by Harper, to approve the consent agenda as shown above.

Approved unanimously

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Harper at 5:37 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Harper presided over the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA WITH MAYOR ABOUASSALY'S ABSTENTION

Administrative Services

Liquor license as follows:

- Renewal - Giving Tree Theater - 752 10th Street

Community Development

Resolution No. 31720 approving development agreement and related documents for Belltower Lofts Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Project

Moved by Mentzer, seconded by Brandt, to approve the consent agenda with Mayor AbouAssaly's abstention as shown above.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Jensen, Strnad, Harper, Mentzer, Brandt, and Miskimen

Abstained: AbouAssaly

Mayor Pro Tem Harper relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 5:38 p.m.
Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

Administrative Services

Ordinance No. 23-28 amending various sections of the Marion Code of Ordinances including Section 24-3 regarding the Building Inspection Division, Section 223-11 regarding Nuisance Abatement, and Section 313-12.7 regarding Automated Traffic Enforcement (final consideration)

Moved by Strnad, seconded by Mentzer, to approve the final consideration of Ordinance No. 23-28.

Approved unanimously

Public Services

Motion directing staff to proceed with automated curbside collection service analysis utilizing the cart sizes as recommended

Moved by Miskimen, seconded by Strnad, to approve item as referenced above.

Approved unanimously

Engineering

Public comment regarding a request for a crosswalk across Winslow Road at Connection Avenue

Mayor AbouAssaly opened the public comment period regarding item referenced above. City Engineer Mike Barkalow provided a staff report. The following comment submitted prior to the meeting was shown: Frank Anderson (1394 Hunters Field Lane) wrote in support of the measure. No other comments, written or verbal, were received. Mayor AbouAssaly declared the public comment period closed.

Motion to receive and file Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) report regarding a request for a crosswalk across Winslow Road at Connection Avenue

Moved by Jensen, seconded by Miskimen, to approve item as referenced above.

Approved unanimously

Motion directing staff to proceed with painted crosswalks at the intersections of Winslow Road and Connection Avenue (north side), Winslow Road and Settlers Drive (north side), and Connection Avenue and North 10th Street (north side)

Moved by Harper, seconded by Jensen, to approve item as referenced above. Councilmember Mentzer thanked the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) for reviewing and recommending this addition. Councilmember Strnad also thanked the team for taking a proactive stance.

Approved unanimously

Community Development

Ordinance No. 23-29 amending the Marion Code of Ordinances by adding language regarding Vacant Buildings (second consideration)

Moved by Brandt, seconded by Harper, to approve the second consideration of Ordinance No. 23-29.

Approved unanimously

PUBLIC FORUM

No one came forward to speak.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Miskimen thanked all the community partners that helped with the Christmas in the Park event.

Councilmember Jensen agreed that the Christmas in the Park event was great. He commented on all the lights in Uptown and looks forward to new lights next year.

Councilmember Harper thanked Library Director Bill Carroll for the strategic planning meeting they held this week. He also thanked the IT Department and team for their infrastructure security work.

Mayor AbouAssaly thanked Team Marion members for their support at the Philanthropy Day luncheon. He spoke about several events he's attended the past couple of weeks including bell ringing at Fareway, ribbon cuttings and more.

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 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 Harper, to reconvene to regular session.

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 6:10 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____.

Rachel Bolender, City Clerk