



## MINUTES

### City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, December 17, 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, December 17, 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.

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### **Annual presentation from Marion Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO)**

President Mark Seckman provided an overview of the past year including the current status of their capital campaign and information regarding business attraction and retention. Councilmember Jensen spoke positively about the success of the capital campaign and the collaboration between MEDCO, Chamber of Commerce and the City.

#### OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

##### **Annual presentation from the Construction Code Review Board and the Nuisance Enforcement & Property Maintenance Advisory Board**

Building Official Gary Hansen provided an overview of the Construction Code Review Board and Code Compliance Coordinator Matt Newhouse provided an overview of the Nuisance Board. Councilmember Harper asked how activity in 2024 compares to previous years. Newhouse stated complaints have increased from previous years.

##### **Budget Discussion: Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2026-2030**

Deputy Finance Director Brian McKenzie provided information regarding recommended projects for the above referenced program and outlined projects available for Council consideration. Councilmember Jensen asked for more information about the \$5 million of additional capacity. McKenzie stated the \$5 million is made up of a combination of funding sources and is spread throughout the five years. Councilmember Harper asked if we maintain a reserve in case of future unknown emergency projects. McKenzie stated there is the capital project reserve fund for those scenarios or staff would discuss if an item could be deferred.

Councilmember Jensen stated a project he'd be interested in including is the Sidewalk Improvement Program. Councilmember Harper asked about a sidewalk project in the

unfunded section and asked if that would fall under the Sidewalk Improvement Program. Public Works Director Mike Barkalow stated if Sidewalk Improvement Program is funded, staff would then compile a list of all sidewalk projects and ask for a prioritization of that list. Mayor AbouAssaly asked if there is any funding available for the Community-wide Wayfinding. McKenzie stated there is wayfinding signage included as part of the Parks projects. Councilmember Brandt asked if the park wayfinding signage is the top priority. Councilmember Jensen agreed that wayfinding is important but hopes the team can find a way to reduce the requested amount. City Manager Ryan Waller stated the team would go through our standard purchasing processes to ensure we are getting the best price for signage. Waller stated at this time staff is only looking at what Council would be comfortable with funding. Councilmember Miskimen stated he would like to see the Hanna Park Pedestrian Bridge be included. Councilmember Harper agreed that the Hanna Park Pedestrian Bridge should be included and would also like to include the utilities to extend the Uptown Artway. Councilmember Jensen agreed about including utility work for the Uptown Artway but could see that being split into two phases. Councilmember Brandt spoke in support of the Sidewalk Improvement Program and asked why removal of the two buildings at the previous Public Works site were funded. Deputy City Manager Kim Downs spoke about insurance, liability and redevelopment of that site. Councilmember Mentzer agreed with the Hanna Park Pedestrian Bridge, including utilities for the Uptown Artway extension, sidewalks and wayfinding.

Council was in support of including Hanna Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement, utilities to extend the Uptown Artway, funding a portion of the Community-Wide Wayfinding project and a portion of the Sidewalk Improvement Program. City Manager Ryan Waller stated Council will see this in a recommended project list at the budget work session in January and that Council can still discuss the included projects and determine if anything should be shifted.

Councilmember Brandt stated he would like to see a project added in the future for the 27th Street Roundabout at 6th Avenue. Councilmember Strnad asked if we are doing any proactive inspections on other bridges in the City. Public Works Director Mike Barkalow stated vehicular bridges are inspected every two years and pedestrian bridges will be added to that rotation.

## **UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW**

City Council review of the December 19, 2024 agenda. Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

Mayor AbouAssaly observed a moment of silence for the loss of Sergeant Mark Kjormoe and offered condolences to the family, department and City.

## **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 Strnad, 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

Councilmember Brandt left the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

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

Approved unanimously

**ADJOURN**

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 6:37 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