

October 15, 2019

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor AbouAssaly presiding and the following council members present: Atkins, Jensen, Strnad, Brandt and Gadelha. Absent: Draper.

Sara Mentzer (2305 Timber Creek Drive, Marion) with Be Well Marion presented information regarding the Uptown Garden. The current plan is to relocate the garden on the lot with City Hall where house was taken down. New garden will incorporate greenhouse and different types of raised garden beds. Will be partnering with Marion High School, Stormwater Coordinator Steve Cooper and Master Gardners. Will also be working with Iowa BIG to help design the garden. Two members of Iowa BIG were present and spoke how they plan to make more visually appealing to neighbors and include picnic tables to make it more of a gathering space. Council Member Strnad asked if they will plan to make a brochure on how to make the raised beds. Sara stated they could arrange that. Council Member Gadelha asked about longevity. Sara stated they plan to keep in that spot as long as they can.

Council discussed the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting with no action taken.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Strnad at 4:21 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Strnad presided over the meeting.

Council discussed the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting with no action taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Strnad relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 4:22 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Council discussed the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting with no action taken.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Strnad at 4:32 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Strnad presided over the meeting.

Council discussed the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting with no action taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Strnad relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 4:37 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Council discussed the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting with no action taken.

Other Department Discussion:

City Manager Lon Pluckhahn stated two council members requested at the last meeting to discuss the ethics policy. Council Member Gadelha provided a brief history of why it was brought up and explained this document is important because of confidentiality, trust and professionalism. She asked if a clause could be added that only members who signed the ethics policy could attend closed sessions. City Attorney Kara Bullerman stated that could not be added. However, a council member who acts against the best interests of the city or is inactive by refusing to vote or participate, could be removed through a district court order. Council Member Gadelha stated this discussion did not stem from something that happened, she just wants it to be as robust as it can. Council Member Jensen asked what happens if a council member does not sign it. City Attorney Kara Bullerman stated she doesn't think other cities have anything that is signed. It is more a statement of standards. She will work on an updated draft to present to Council.

Budget Manager Zach Wolfe provided an overview of the budget calendar. He reviewed the new requirement regarding 2% threshold for certain levies.

Moved by Jensen seconded by Atkins to adjourn to closed session regarding letters patent as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(b) of the Code of Iowa. 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. Roll Call: Yeas: Atkins, Jensen, AbouAssaly, Gadelha, Brandt, and Strnad. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Jensen, seconded by Strnad to reconvene to regular session. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Nicolas AbouAssaly, Mayor

Attest:

Rachel Bolender, City Clerk

The undersigned City Clerk of Marion, Iowa certifies that the minutes shown immediately above were published in the Marion Times on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

Rachel Bolender, City Clerk