

June 16, 2020

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor AbouAssaly presiding and the following council members present: Harper, Atkins, Jensen, Brandt, Gadelha (via Zoom) and Strnad. Absent: None.

Based on COVID-19 guidance from Linn County Public Health and the State of Iowa to limit the size of groups gathering, this meeting was held electronically. The agenda and City's website provided instructions on how others could participate in the meeting.

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

Other Department Discussion:

City Manager Lon Pluckhahn requested council's input on if an executive search firm should be used for filling the Deputy City Manager position. Lon stated he has reached out to a couple of firms and one charges a percentage of first years compensation and the other charged \$10,000-\$14,000 depending on their involvement in the process. Lon plans to have interview panels similar to when the Police Chief was hired. There will be a motion on Thursday's agenda authorizing the City Manager to engage with a search firm. Council Member Jensen stated it is a necessity to use search firm when hiring for this type of position.

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller provided a review of recent policy changes in regards to use of force as well as body camera and car camera recording procedures. Chief Kitsmiller then reviewed use of force statistics from 2015 to present. He wanted to publicly thank members of the community for their support the past few weeks. He invites anyone who wants to sit down with him to reach out. He also announced that a Police Citizen Academy will start this fall that will increase engagement with the community. Council Member Gadelha asked how the morale was out at police department. Chief Kitsmiller stated morale is okay, officers are concerned with what has happened in Atlanta. His fear is also that an officer will hesitate to use the appropriate use of force in fear of backlash. Council Member Jensen stated that Marion Police has always been viewed as one of the toughest in the area but safety is always highly ranked in community surveys. He asked what his feelings were in regards to having a Citizen Review Board. Chief Kitsmiller stated he wants to be transparent to the public but also fair to the officers. He said if the community asks for it, they'll create a review board and make sure authority of the board is appropriate.

Library Director Hollie Trenary, Shaun Kelly with Engberg Anderson and Jarod Engler with Bush Construction discussed the design of the library as well as the budget for design. Hollie stated a concern right now is to make sure the brick houses are moved soon so that there isn't a delay to the project.

Council Member Gadelha left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Moved by Harper seconded by Atkins to adjourn to closed session regarding land acquisition as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(j) 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: Harper, Atkins, Jensen, AbouAssaly, Brandt, and Strnad. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Jensen at 6:29 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen presided over the meeting.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Steve Jensen, Mayor Pro Tem

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