

August 4, 2020

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, August 4, 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 and Strnad. Absent: Gadelha.

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.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Jensen at 4:02 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen presided over the meeting.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 4:07 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:

Finance Director Lianne Cairy provided an overview of the investment policy and portfolio as well as discussed the Investment Oversight Committee. This Committee was created by resolution in 2000 and last met in 2010. The current investment policy was last updated in 1992. Lianne would like the committee to help finalize an updated policy. Council Member Strnad stated he is excited to see this move forward and would like to see language added to the policy regarding using other institutions and giving the Finance Director authority for lateral moves. Council Member Jensen is also in support of this and asked how often the committee would meet. Lianne stated the committee used to meet quarterly. She sees them meeting more frequently until policy is complete then assess how often they need to meet. Mayor AbouAssaly asked if policy would be adopted by Council. Lianne confirmed that it would. Both Council Member Strnad and Council Member Harper volunteered to assist with recruitment of members.

City Engineer Mike Barkalow introduced Executive Director Dennis Goemaat with Linn County Conservation. Dennis went on to explain the process Linn County Conservation has taken in renaming Squaw Creek Park. It has been brought forward and supported by the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa (Meskwaki Nation) to rename the park "Wanatee" in honor of Adeline Wanatee. Linn County Conservation would be responsible for renaming the park. In order

to rename the creek, an application needs to be submitted to United States Geological Survey (USGS) and supported by any local jurisdictions. For Squaw Creek, this would be City of Marion, City of Cedar Rapids and Linn County. Dennis asked Council if the name Wanatee would be opposed if it came back in front of Council to rename the creek. Council Member Brandt, Council Member Atkins, Council Member Harper and Mayor AbouAssaly stated they would support renaming the creek.

City Manager Lon Pluckhahn discussed the creation of a working group related to recommendations brought forward by Marion Alliance for Racial Equity. Lon stated there needs to be an appropriate balance of members so the group is not too large. Lon stated 11 to 13 members would be ideal. Working group would include City Manager, Police Chief, members from Council, members from Civil Rights Commission, members from Marion Alliance for Racial Equity, business owners and from City at large. Council Member Jensen, Council Member Atkins and Council Member Harper all agreed the working group should have 10 to 11 members. Lon stated next steps would be to have Council appoint members.

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

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Nicolas AbouAssaly, Mayor

Attest:

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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\_\_\_\_.

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Rachel Bolender, City Clerk