

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in special session, Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the training room at the Marion Police Department, 6315 Highway 151 with Mayor AbouAssaly presiding and the following council members present: Harper, Atkins, Jensen, Brandt, Gadelha and Strnad. Absent: None.

City Manager Lon Pluckhahn provided an update to Council regarding the storm response. Command staff is now working out of City Hall along with Linn County Emergency Management. Staff has moved from immediate response stage to longer term recovery. He stated the City has received a lot of help from volunteers in regards to food relief and the Marion Food Panty as well as help with debris cleanup. Lon thanked City staff for all of their help and support as a majority have damage to their personal property to deal with but are also stepping up at work. Council Member Jensen asked if additional equipment was needed to turn tree debris pile into mulch. Lon stated equipment will be coming in to help reduce that. Council Member Gadelha asked for an overview of any damage to City facilities or new facility projects under construction. Lon stated the new fire headquarters received some structural damage and water damage to a wooden ceiling that was installed. The new public services facility had steel beams that were bent and some anchor bolts snapped off the concrete foundation. The Library received substantial damage and a contractor was called in right away to help save some of the collection. Locations have been secured for storage and a temporary library site. Lon stated almost all public facilities received some kind of damage. Council Member Harper asked for clarification of the \$3 million in damage that was mentioned in news. Lon stated it was at least \$3 million in damage but that was only covering city facilities. Council Member Brandt asked if there was an update regarding how much of the City has had electricity restored. Lon stated the last he heard was that 80 percent of City has power available. One of the most challenging parts for homeowners is availability of electricians. Council Member Brandt asked about locations in City still without power. Lon stated there is not one single location still without power.

Mayor AbouAssaly provided an update on efforts made with communication and the response in the community. He stated information stations have been setup throughout the City, a group of volunteers canvassed neighborhoods this past weekend and assessed what people needed and other teams are responding and bringing in water or food. Also, a food distribution center has been set up at Marion Square Mall and has become a central hub for people's needs, Library staff has set up a technology center at Thomas Park and a donation website has been created where donations have been received by people throughout the country. The response in the community has been great.

Moved by Harper, seconded by Brandt to approve Resolution No. 28698 approving a contract with Southern Disaster Recovery, LLC for storm debris removal services. Public Services Director Ryan Miller stated last week staff reached out to 12 contractors asking for bids regarding storm debris removal services. Three responses were received with the bid from Southern Disaster Recovery being the only that was volume based which is a FEMA requirement. Ryan stated Southern Disaster Recovery is based

out of South Carolina and specializes in these types of disasters. Chip Patterson, VP of Operations at Southern Disaster Recovery, provided an overview of the cleanup process. A first pass of the City will remove the bulk of the tree debris that has been moved to the right-of-way. Then there will be a break that will allow residents to move more tree debris to the curb if needed. At that point a second pass will be made throughout Marion. Finally, a third pass will be made at which point the City should be back to normal operations. The first pass should take three to four weeks with the entire process lasting eight to nine weeks. Council Member Brandt asked if a map will be provided to residents. Ryan Miller stated a map will be distributed but they want to wait until the crew is fully mobilized. City Attorney Kara Bullerman stated since the contract is eligible for FEMA reimbursement, City staff have been in contact with FEMA to make sure all procedures are being followed. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Brandt, seconded by Gadelha to approve Resolution No. 28699 approving the purchase of additional data center resources with Involta, LLC for 27 months in the amount of \$22,882.50. City Manager Lon Pluckhahn stated FEMA requires photo documentation of damage in the area. This additional storage will be used for the photos, videos or any other documentation needed for disaster response. All in favor, motion carried.

Library Director Hollie Trenary provided an update regarding the Library. The insurance adjuster stated everything must be moved out of library. She stated the first priority is to save the collection. About 10-25% of the collection has been declared a total loss. The remaining collection was wet as the building was at 80% humidity. The materials were able to be dried out and will be moved to a storage facility. The second priority is to set up temporary facilities in order to move forward with library operations. About 25 employees have been displaced but are currently helping other City staff and stationed throughout the City at information booths, helping directing traffic, and answering volunteer calls. Council Member Gadelha asked what type of the collection was destroyed. Hollie stated that it was all print material. Hollie then reviewed the following three resolutions on the agenda including a contract with Library Furniture International is the company that was hired to help move print materials, a lease for a temporary location will be located Uptown in the former Campbell Steele Gallery building and another lease for a storage facility for the print materials. City Manager Lon Pluckhahn stated all fees for the relocation are reimbursable through insurance.

Moved by Gadelha, seconded by Harper to approve Resolution No. 28700 approving a contract with Library Furniture International for library material moving services in the amount of \$34,950.00. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Strnad, seconded by Brandt to approve Resolution No. 28701 approving lease with Craig Campbell and Priscilla Steele for a temporary library location for 12 months at monthly rate of \$1,500.00 and month to month thereafter. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Jensen at 11:08 a.m. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen presided over the meeting.

Moved by Brandt, seconded by Gadelha to approve Resolution No. 28702 approving lease with Genesis Equities for storage of library materials for 12 months at monthly rate of \$1,895.00. Council Member Gadelha asked about what would happen after initial 12 months. City Attorney Kara Bullerman stated the lease has two additional 12 month renewals built into the lease for a small increase each year. Council Member Harper asked if the storage facility was temperature controlled. Library Director Hollie Trenary stated it is from a heating perspective but it is a very dry and tight space. Staff will continue to monitor humidity but feel comfortable with the space. This space also comes with an office so people can be staffed there. Council Member Strnad asked where the facility is located. Hollie stated it is the former location of White Glove Movers out on 3rd Avenue. Council Member Jensen asked what will be stored at this facility. Hollie stated print, cd and dvd materials will be stored there but will also store anything that will fit. Vote: Yeas: Harper, Atkins, Jensen, Brandt, Gadelha and Strnad. Nays: None. Abstention: AbouAssaly.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen relinquished gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 11:14 a.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Mayor AbouAssaly asked if the curfew should be amended to be consistent with Cedar Rapids. Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller said the plan was initially to eliminate curfew as soon as power is restored but is okay with changing if Council is in favor. Council Member Strnad asked if curfew is being followed. Chief Kitsmiller stated it is generally being followed but have had to stop a few people. All Council members were in support of adding an amended curfew to the proclamation.

Council Member Gadelha asked about including debris removal from the manufactured home communities in the contract for Southern Disaster Recovery. All Council members supported adding that to the contract.

Mayor AbouAssaly read the emergency proclamation that accelerates the process for disaster recovery businesses to obtain a solicitors permit, waives building permit fees for projects valued under \$2,000, shortens the curfew to midnight to 6:00 a.m., and increases the City Managers spending authority to \$65,000.

Mayor AbouAssaly stated the Governor has visited the area twice and has promised to help with whatever is needed. He stated the President was in the area on Tuesday, August 18 and held a roundtable with area mayors. Mayor AbouAssaly stated he shared Marion's need in regards to additional help for homeowners and small businesses.

Mayor AbouAssaly asked about the status of traffic signals. Public Services Director Ryan Miller stated there is a plan for the signalized intersections. They are waiting for a mast arm at the intersection of Highway 151 and Highway 13. Staff will start assessing

the damage of remaining signals this week and will make sure all electrical aspects are working and are structurally sound before turning back on.

City Manager Lon Pluckhahn pleaded with residents not to burn any debris in the City limits. He stated since all the brush piles are starting to dry out, it won't take much for one spark to start a fire.

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.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