



# MINUTES

## City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, June 1, 2021  
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, June 1, 2021, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Grant Harper, Colette Atkins, Steve Jensen, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Will Brandt, Rene Gadelha, and Randy 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.

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **Presentation Regarding a Tax Incentive Request from Talon, LLC**

MEDCO President Nick Glew introduced Josh Kruger with Talon, LLC and spoke regarding a proposed development at 640 Marion Boulevard. Josh Kruger spoke about the 94 apartment unit project. Nick Glew stated the action item for Council to take on Thursday is to direct staff to draft a letter of support for the Workforce Housing Tax Credit program. Council Member Harper asked when construction would start and the range of rentals available. Kruger stated if everything runs smoothly, design would start after approval through the State and construction would begin Spring 2022. Kruger stated rentals would range from \$590 to \$980 depending on the size of the unit. Council Member Gadelha asked if these were annual contracts or month to month leases. Kruger stated it will generally be a 12 month lease. Mayor AbouAssaly asked about parking. Kruger stated it is all surface parking but there will be some surface garages. Council Member Strnad asked what the master plan states for this property. Community Development Director Tom Treharne stated there will need to be an amendment to the comprehensive plan and zoning map.

#### **Presentation Regarding Summer Events and Protocols.**

Communications Manager Amber Bisinger provided an overview regarding summer events and safety protocols as the City reintroduces events to the public. Bisinger stated most events that are typically in Marion Square Park have been moved to Lowe Park to allow for more social distancing and to accommodate the construction that will take place in Uptown. Bisinger stated the Fireworks for Fireflies event will move to Labor Day weekend this year. Bisinger stated she would like suggestions to commemorate the

upcoming one year anniversary of the derecho. Council Member Atkins asked about reservations for events. Bisinger stated reservation information will be included with event announcements if it is required. Reservations are being used for select events to help manage staffing and to gauge what to expect for attendance.

## **AGENDA**

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

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Atkins at 4:34. Mayor Pro Tem Atkins presided over the meeting.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Atkins relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 4:38 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**

### **Marion Historic Preservation Certified Local Government Annual Report for 2020**

Historic Preservation Commission Staff Liaison Dave Hockett provided an overview of the Commission including projects and activities. Hockett stated current challenges include lack of interest to serve on the board and reduced public engagement. Mayor AbouAssaly asked about the assessment of properties in historic districts. Hockett stated it's a history of each house from when it was build to present. Mayor AbouAssaly asked if staff have looked into programs to incentivize rehabilitation of historic properties. Hockett stated they have spoken with Brooke Prouty with Uptown Marion and other communities to see what programs are available. Council Member Harper spoke about the three historic districts currently recognized in Marion. Mayor AbouAssaly stated the commission should work with each of the districts to form neighborhood groups to help with rehabilitation. Council Member Strnad suggested landscaping in the districts should also be looked at.

## **ADJOURN**

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

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Nicolas AbouAssay, Mayor

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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