



MINUTES

City Council Regular Session

3:00 PM - Wednesday, June 2, 2021

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in special session, on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 3:00 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, and Randy Strnad

ABSENT: Rene 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.

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discussion Regarding Recruitment for City Manager

Mayor AbouAssaly asked for opinions on if search firm should be utilized or if staff should do a targeted approach. Human Resources Director Kirsten Fisher stated what has been done to date with the Deputy City Manager position. Council Member Harper stated he believes a search firm should be hired to optimize the search. Mayor AbouAssaly asked how long it would take to select a firm and get a candidate pool. City Manager Lon Pluckhahn stated it could be around 120 days. Fisher stated she recommends staff post the position as normal, perform a targeted search as well as utilize a search firm. Council Member Atkins asked about the cons of a parallel search. Fisher stated it could be a potential loss of time or money. Pluckhahn stated a targeted approach would move faster. Council Member Brandt had concerns about out of state candidates being missed by handling the process in house. Pluckhahn stated the position can be posted on the ICMA website which would have a national reach. Mayor AbouAssaly asked if Kirsten could put together the hiring plan and include milestones. Council Member Brandt stated this search should be a priority. Mayor AbouAssaly asked if the Deputy City Manager search should be paused. Council Member Brandt stated he is in favor of pausing the Deputy City Manager search. Council Member Harper agreed and stated that the new City Manager should have a say in who is hired for Deputy City Manager. Council Members Jensen and Atkins agreed. Council Member Atkins asked what should be done in the interim. Pluckhahn stated once the schedule is determined, Council can look at appointing an interim City Manager. Council Member Harper asked for a standing item on

Council agenda for progress updates.

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

Nicolas AbouAssay, Mayor

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