



# MINUTES

## City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, December 7, 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, December 7, 2021, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Grant Harper, Steve Jensen, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Will Brandt, and Rene Gadelha

ABSENT: Colette Atkins and Randy Strnad

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

### PRESENTATIONS

Council Member Atkins arrived at 4:02 p.m.

#### **Presentation regarding Winter Lights Fundraising Effort: New Peace Tree (Marion Leadership in Action)**

Daniel Morgan (320 Isham Drive) with Marion Leadership in Action (MLIA) spoke regarding the request for funding for a new peace tree. The original peace tree was gifted to the city in the 90's and was a focal point of uptown events. The tree was lost to disease and a stand-in tree has been used since then and is discarded at the end of each holiday season. Morgan stated the group is looking to purchase a 30-foot LED panel "Peace Tree for the Future" which has lights that can be programmed. MLIA is requesting donations from local donors and has raised around \$10,000. MLIA is requesting matching funds from the City in an amount not to exceed \$30,000. Council Member Harper asked about technical information in regards to maintenance or foundation requirements. Parks Director Seth Staashelm stated he has been in contact with the vendor and can find out the requirements. Staashelm provided more information regarding the tree. Council Member Jensen is in favor of this project. Council Member Atkins asked about previous funding requests and the need to determine requirements for storage and electrical. Mayor AbouAssaly stated previous requests have been anywhere between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Council Member Atkins asked where funds would come from. City Manager Ryan Waller stated funds would come from the hotel/motel fund. Mayor AbouAssaly spoke in favor of the project and thanked MLIA for working on this project.

### AGENDA

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

Council Member Brandt left the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

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 5:04 p.m. 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 5:06 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**

### **Update on the YMCA and City of Marion Recreation Partnership**

Parks Director Seth Staashelm reviewed details from the memorandum of agreement and information regarding the advisory committee. Staashelm stated Marion recreation staff and YMCA staff have been meeting monthly to organize programs and offerings. Staashelm outlined current recreation programs. Council Member Gadelha asked why guests aren't allowed but anyone is allowed to attend the drop-in pickleball. Staashelm stated guests would be allowed in all areas of the facility where attendees for pickleball are only allowed in the gym. Council Member Gadelha also asked for a future update regarding any cost savings with this partnership.

## **ADJOURN**

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:43 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 Gazette on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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Rachel Bolender, City Clerk