



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, March 1, 2022
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 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 Sara Mentzer

ABSENT: Colette Atkins and Randy Strnad

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Life Saving Award Presentation

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller presented an award to Police Officers Spenser Hartman and Korey Ryan for their life-saving actions as they responded to a medical call at Anytime Fitness in Marion on January 17, 2022.

Update regarding the Broad & Main Project

Mark Kittrell with Eagle View Partners LC provided an overview of the project referenced above which is located east of Marion Square Park.

Councilmember Atkins arrived at 4:09 p.m.

Kittrell provided information on what has been completed to date on the Broad & Main on Seventh project. Kittrell spoke about the upcoming project for Broad & Main on Sixth and proposed projects for two additional lots.

Presentation Regarding the 2022 Uptown Marion Market

Tami Schlamp with the Marion Chamber of Commerce spoke about the Uptown Marion Market which has a new setup this year. Councilmember Atkins asked if there is space for more vendors with this new layout. Schlamp stated there are spots for 24 vendors on 7th Avenue and overflow will go into Marion Square Park.

AGENDA

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

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Presentation Regarding Rookwood East Development

Community Development Director Tom Treharne provided an overview of the Rookwood East development project. Treharne stated an amendment to the code will need to be added to address the detention basin proposed in the development. Councilmember Harper stated he would like to see the detention basin as a dry basin. Councilmember Jensen also shared his thoughts on the detention basin. Councilmember Atkins spoke about the potential increase of traffic in this area because of this development. Treharne stated he will work with the developer and discuss additional items before the development is presented to council.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Brandt at 5:57 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Brandt presided over the meeting.

Discussion Regarding Marion Airport Road in Association with Marion Aircom Park 1st and 2nd Additions

City Engineer Mike Barkalow provided information regarding the proposed improvements of Marion Airport Road.

Mayor Pro Tem Brandt relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 5:59 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Discussion and Direction Regarding Contract with Marion Township for Fire and Emergency Service

Fire Chief Deb Krebill provided information regarding the Marion Township, past purchases the township has paid for and previous contracts. Krebill stated that the township currently owns Engine 92 which is stored at station no. 2 and is in need of replacement. Krebill stated she will come back to council with some options for the new contract.

Discussion and Direction Regarding the Hotel/Motel Grant Program

Accountant Brian McKenzie provided information regarding the existing hotel/motel grant program and revenue growth since fiscal year 2016. McKenzie stated one change being proposed would be for council to directly allocate funds for city events and partners through the annual budget process. Non-profit organizations would continue to apply for funds through the grant program. McKenzie stated another change being proposed would be for the program to continue as an annual process or it could switch to a bi-annual process. McKenzie stated another item for consideration would be regarding the makeup of the review committee. Council discussed their thoughts on the proposed changes.

Councilmember Jensen left the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Council continued to discuss the proposed changes. All council members spoke in favor of allocating funds for city events through the budget process. Majority of council members were in favor of keeping as an annual program. Council also discussed the compensation of the committee. Councilmember Atkins recommended two staff members, one city council member and four residents. All council members spoke in favor of this suggestion. Councilmember Brandt stated one staff member should be the Communications Manager.

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Brandt at 6:43 p.m.

Discussion and Direction Relating to a List of Comparable Cities

Human Resources Director Kirsten Fisher presented a list of comparable cities to use when looking at Marion's compensation and benefits for recruitment and retention. City Manager Ryan Waller stated this list would also be used for arbitration purposes. Councilmember Harper asked if this list would be reviewed annually. Waller confirmed it would be reviewed annually. Fisher stated next steps would be to determine Marion's compensation philosophy. Councilmember Mentzer asked if staff would only be using this list to compare salaries. Waller stated staff would be comparing total compensation but this list would also be used for any benchmarking task such as charges for fees or services offered. Councilmember Mentzer asked if there should be any comparable cities from the Midwest. Waller stated staff will look at adding some other regional communities and will bring back a policy at the next council meeting.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Brandt adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Will Brandt, Mayor Pro Tem

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____.

Rachel Bolender, City Clerk