



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, May 3, 2022
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 4:02 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Grant Harper, Steve Jensen, Colette Atkins, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Sara Mentzer, and Randy Strnad

ABSENT: Will Brandt

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/OATHS

Proclamation - World Migratory Bird Day (May 14, 2022)

Councilmember Atkins read and presented the proclamation referenced above to Horticulturist Mary Weber.

Proclamation - Building Safety Month (May 2022)

Councilmember Strnad read and presented the proclamation referenced above to Building Official Gary Hansen. Hansen spoke about the weekly themes throughout the month of May.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation regarding Prospect Meadows

Jack Roeder from Prospect Meadows shared a video and an update about the park. Roeder also provided an overview of the 2022 season. Councilmember Harper asked how this season compares to last season. Roeder stated more teams will be attending this season. Councilmember Atkins asked for more information from the survey that was given. Roeder stated the most common negative they have heard is regarding the restrooms or fields being too far from the parking lot but most were very positive comments.

Presentation regarding Main Street Iowa Award

Brooke Prouty provided information regarding the award received by Uptown Marion Main Street Program and City of Marion for the business support initiatives to help small businesses navigate the hardships of the 7th Avenue Reconstruction and Streetscape Project.

Presentation from Bush Construction regarding the Marion Library Building Project

Nick Hecker with Bush Construction provided information regarding the request for the City to pay for the escalation of material costs regarding the Marion Library Project. Hecker clarified that the building information modeling (BIM) was completed May 10, 2021.

Presentation from Acme, Ahern and Pipe Pro regarding the Marion Library Building Project

Representatives from the above contractors provided information regarding the request for the City to pay for the escalation of material costs regarding the Marion Library Building Project.

AGENDA

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

Councilmember Brandt arrived at 5:24 p.m.

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

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Annual update regarding Marion's Urban Forestry Division

City Arborist Mike Cimprich provided an update regarding the Urban Forestry Division including Right-of-Way (ROW) stump removal, Faulkes Heritage Woodland salvage harvest, reforestation efforts, a ROW tree ordinance amendment and the Urban Forest Utility Fund. Councilmember Strnad thanked staff for bringing forward changes to the ordinance as he has received several comments about a lack of trees in new subdivisions. Councilmember Strnad asked why some ROW trunks were cut and left at the site. Cimprich stated the contractor who removed trees after the derecho cut to FEMA standards but did not cut to an ideal height for grinding. The current contractor is cutting stumps to an ideal height and is working ahead of the contractor who will be responsible for grinding the stumps. Councilmember Harper asked about the utility fee being per meter. Parks Director Seth Staashelm stated it will actually be charged per dwelling unit. Mayor AbouAssaly asked how much of Faulkes Woods was damaged by the derecho. Cimprich estimated less than half was damaged which was less than what was predicted. Councilmember Brandt asked about reseeding where ROW stumps were removed. Cimprich stated very few spots are fully complete and the contractor will be working to complete the contract this season. Councilmember Atkins asked if the soil requirements should be included into a code amendment. Community Development Director Tom Treharne stated that could be looked at and stated the ReLeaf Cedar Rapids plan is a great resource to model and it includes some of those standards and requirements.

Update regarding the Sanitary Sewer Special Work Session

Michael Maloney with D.A. Davidson provided an overview on current user rates, historical performance and a summary of the base case projection and considerations. Project financial performance was shown with adjustment scenarios. Councilmember Jensen asked what types of businesses use 20,000 gallons. Public Services Director Ryan Miller stated there are not many properties in Marion that have that high of use. Councilmember Harper asked for clarification of the fee types. Finance Director Lianne Cairry outlined the purposes and uses of each fee. Maloney stated the next steps include presenting this information to the Public Services Board and then an ordinance would

come forward on May 19.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding personnel matters as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(i) and litigation as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(c) of the Code of Iowa. (Two separate measures)

Moved by Atkins, seconded by Harper, to adjourn to closed session as stated above. City Attorney Kara Bullerman stated that she has reviewed the subject matter to be discussed and found it to be an appropriate topic for closed session. A roll call vote was taken.

Approved unanimously

Moved by Strnad, seconded by Harper, to reconvene to regular session.

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Nicolas AbouAssaly, Mayor

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