



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, August 16, 2022
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, August 16, 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, Sara Mentzer, and Randy Strnad

ABSENT: Colette Atkins and Will Brandt

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation regarding the Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority (ICWMA)

Jennifer Fencil with East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) provided information regarding the Watershed Management Authority including history, fiscal year 2022 activities and what will be worked on over the next year. Councilmember Harper asked when the next demonstration will be. Fencil stated there is an event in a couple of weeks at the Indian Creek Nature Center and she will send that information.

AGENDA

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

Councilmember Atkins arrived at 4:22 p.m.

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

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Harper at 4:29 p.m. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Harper presided over the meeting.

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

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Harper relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 4:33 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

Discussion and Direction regarding Establishment of an Airport Visioning Subcommittee

City Manager Ryan Waller outlined the plan for an airport visioning subcommittee and potential members. Councilmember Harper stated he would like to add individuals as needed depending on discussions of the visioning subcommittee. Councilmember Atkins asked for the differences between all the airport committees and wondered if resident or local business member should be included in the visioning subcommittee. Waller outlined the differences between the Marion Municipal Airport Committee, the Airport Subcommittee and the proposed Airport Visioning Subcommittee. Waller also agreed that resident involvement would be great. Councilmember Atkins asked if there should be an expert included in this visioning subcommittee. Waller stated staff would work with consultants, such as Anderson Bogert and HDR, to help support the committee. Mayor AbouAssaly asked if the visioning subcommittee would provide recommendations to the Council and be subject to open meeting rules. Waller confirmed that is accurate. Councilmember Atkins stated the objectives should be clearly outlined.

Discussion regarding Detention Basins

Stormwater Coordinator Steve Cooper provided information regarding the three types of detention basins, as well as Marion's current standards, code and policy. Cooper also outlined current costs and how comparable cities handle detention basins. City Engineer Mike Barkalow stated staff would like Council input on if City policy should maintain the same or if maintenance agreements should be put in place that would require basins be maintained by the developer or a homeowner's association. Mayor AbouAssaly stated wet basins are attractive and do add value but not sure if the City should maintain. He stated would like to see options for them to be maintained privately. Councilmember Strnad agreed that they should be maintained by developers as they could also put more features in them to help with aesthetics. Strnad also spoke about how detention basins can help prevent water backups in homes. Councilmember Jensen shared concerns with allowing more wet basins but stated he agreed with having maintenance agreements in place. Councilmember Harper asked how developers decide whether to choose a dry or wet detention basin. Cooper stated it is completely the developer's choice in some areas and others it's chosen based on the topography. Councilmember Harper agreed that maintenance agreements with developers should be put in place. Councilmember Mentzer spoke about how we are asking developers to reach higher and setting expectations and supports having maintenance agreements in place.

Budget Discussion: Environmental Scan

Finance Director Lianne Cairry provided an analysis of Marion's strengths, areas for improvement, opportunities and challenges to take into consideration during the development of the next fiscal year budget.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Moved by Jensen, 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

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Harper at 6:33 p.m. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Harper presided over the meeting.

Mayor AbouAssaly returned at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Harper relinquished the gavel and Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Moved by Jensen, seconded by Atkins, to reconvene to regular session.

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 7:21 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