



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, February 21, 2023
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Grant Harper, Steve Jensen, Colette Atkins, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Will Brandt, and Sara Mentzer

ABSENT: Randy Strnad

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/OATHS

Police Department Promotion: Officer Jimmie Hunter to Sergeant

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller spoke about the sergeant position, shared Jimmie Hunter's accomplishments and recognized his promotion to Sergeant.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation from Hogan-Hansen, P.C. regarding the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022

Jennifer Decker with Hogan-Hansen provided information on the above referenced report.

Presentation by Area Ambulance Service (AAS)

Representatives from AAS shared information regarding its service model to the City of Marion and information regarding the Emergency Medical Services and ambulance program in the City of Marion.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding police department staffing and automated traffic enforcement (ATE) cameras

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller provided an overview of statistics regarding staffing levels in the department and accidents at the intersections of Highway 13 and Highway 151 as well as Highway 100 and East Post Road. Information regarding ATE cameras and License Plate Readers were also provided. City Manager Ryan Waller spoke more about other staffing strategies that are being done to help with the shortages in the police department. Councilmember Harper stated he was shocked at the number of people who drive 10 or more mph over the speed limit at the two intersections talked about and is in

support of ATE cameras. Councilmember Atkins stated she is in support of having a safe community and also looks forward to more opportunities for community oriented policing and would like to learn more about ATE cameras. Councilmember Jensen would like to learn more about what the other communities are doing and spoke in support of ATE cameras. Councilmember Mentzer stated she originally was not in support but stated that the facts provided show that there is a problem. Mentzer asked if there would be any kind of appeal process for ticketing. Kitsmiller stated there would be an appeal process built into the ordinance. Councilmember Brandt spoke about a near miss accident he was involved in and understands the need for red light cameras and is in support. Mayor AbouAssaly stated he was initially against the ATE cameras but agrees that the facts show a need for something to be done. Mayor AbouAssaly stated he would like to learn more about ATE cameras.

Discussion and direction regarding Capital Campaign for the Central Plaza Project

Parks Director Seth Staashelm provided information regarding the above referenced capital campaign including naming right and sponsorship opportunities. Councilmembers spoke in support of moving forward with the campaign.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

Discussion regarding the February 23, 2023 agenda

Council discussed the upcoming agenda with no action taken.

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Harper at 5:58 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Harper presided over the meeting.

Council continued discussion on the upcoming agenda with no action taken.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding litigation as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(c) of the Code of Iowa.

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Harper adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Grant Harper, 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