



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, July 18, 2023
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Steve Jensen, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Will Brandt, Sara Mentzer, Randy Strnad, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: Grant Harper

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion and Direction Regarding the Financial Policy

Finance Director Lianne Cairy provided a review of Marion's financial policies and recommended updates and changes. Councilmember Strnad asked if raising the debt limit would have an impact on the bond rating. Cairy stated she would look into it. Councilmember Jensen stated he would like to see more data and long-term analysis before he agrees to increasing the debt limit. Councilmember Brandt stated he would like to see how close our comparable cities are to their stated debt limit percentage. Cairy stated the debt limit will remain at 50% until further analysis can be provided.

Discussion and Direction Regarding Fiscal Year End Transfer of Employee Benefits Levy

Finance Director Lianne Cairy provided information regarding the health insurance fund and proposed changes.

Presentation Regarding Land Use/Development Regulations along Tower Terrace Road and Highway 13 Corridors

Principal Planner Dave Hockett provided a review of the land use/development regulations in the above referenced locations. He outlined items that have been completed and next steps including updates to community wide design standards regarding landscape, lighting and signs, and an update to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Map.

Discussion and Direction Regarding a Vacant Building Ordinance and Policy

Building Official Gary Hansen provided some background on vacant buildings in Marion, enforcement practices and an overview of the proposed policy. Councilmember Miskimen asked if we have an estimate of how many vacant properties are in Marion. Hansen stated he does not have an exact number.

REGULAR AGENDA

Ordinance No. 23-20 rezoning property from Linn County AG, Agriculture, and USR, Urban Services Residential to SR-2, Suburban Medium Density Single-Family Residential for property located north of East Robins Road and west of Alburnett Road, Marion, Iowa (Frazier Land Investments, LLC) (Second Consideration)

Moved by Jensen, seconded by Miskimen, to approve the second consideration of Ordinance No. 23-20.

Approved unanimously

Motion to suspend the rules and proceed to the final consideration of Ordinance No. 23-20

Moved by Brandt, seconded by Jensen, to approve the item referenced above.

Approved unanimously

Ordinance No. 23-20 rezoning property from Linn County AG, Agriculture, and USR, Urban Services Residential to SR-2, Suburban Medium Density Single-Family Residential for property located north of East Robins Road and west of Alburnett Road, Marion, Iowa (Frazier Land Investments, LLC) (Final Consideration)

Moved by Mentzer, seconded by Brandt, to approve the final consideration of Ordinance No. 23-20.

Approved unanimously

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

Discussion regarding the July 20, 2023 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items for Thursday night's meeting 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 Strnad, seconded by Mentzer, 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

Councilmember Miskimen left the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 6:19 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