



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, September 19, 2023
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

**Please note: the audio drops from the zoom recording during the first discussion item.*

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, September 19, 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, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Will Brandt, Sara Mentzer, Randy Strnad, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: None

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

The presentation regarding solid waste collections study was postponed until a later date.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Update Regarding the Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) Camera Program

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller provided an overview of the warnings issued during the first 30 days of the ATE program. Councilmember Jensen asked about the discrepancy between the counts at each intersection. Kitsmiller stated the red light cameras look at when the front tires of the vehicle cross the white line. The camera at the Highway 13 and 151 intersection is placed along the right side of the road and staff is looking at if the camera should be placed in another area in order to capture all lanes.

Presentation Regarding Health and Vision Insurance for Calendar Year 2024

Human Resources Manager Lucas Sperfslage provided information and recommendations relating to the vision plan, traditional health plan and a new high deductible health plan. Councilmember Strnad stated he strongly supports the high deductible health plan and the health savings accounts. Councilmember Harper asked how our health plan compares to our competitors. Sperfslage stated Baker Tilly reported that our rates are comparable and that this added plan will help Marion be more competitive.

Update on Willowood Creek Drainage Report and Next Steps

City Engineer Mike Barkalow and Utility Specialist Matt Morris provided information on the above referenced drainage report and next steps.

Discussion and Direction regarding proposed policies related to the amendments to Chapter 274 Article III of the Marion Code of Ordinances regarding Stormwater

Utility

City Engineer Mike Barkalow provided a review of current rebates and proposed rebates to incentivize water and soil quality. Mayor AbouAssaly asked that there be learning opportunities for residents after the policies are in place.

Discussion and Direction Regarding Existing Commercial Zoning District Use and Development Standards

Principal Planner Dave Hockett provided a review of current commercial zoning districts along the Tower Terrace Road, Highway 13 and Central Corridors. Uses discussed included firework stands, motor vehicle services and repair shops, car washes, gas stations, pawn shops, liquor stores, deep discount stores, storage units and outdoor sales. Hockett stated the project to update the comprehensive plan will begin October 2023 with potential completion in 2025. Mayor AbouAssaly was in support of issuing a moratorium until the comprehensive plan is complete. Councilmember Strnad stated he has a vision of what Tower Terrace Road should be and would like to see limits placed on the quantity of each type of business. City Manager Ryan Waller stated a moratorium would give staff time to do research and complete the comprehensive plan update. Councilmember Miskimen is in support of a moratorium as long as there is a clear timeline when it expires.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council Review of the September 21, 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 real estate transactions as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(j) 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

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Harper adjourned the meeting at 7:43 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