



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, February 20, 2024

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Grant Harper, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Sara Mentzer, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: Steve Jensen, Will Brandt, and Randy Strnad

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation Regarding the Audit Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Jennifer Decker with Hogan-Hansen provided an overview of the audit report as referenced above including any findings. Councilmember Harper asked about the finding regarding separation of duties and how common that is with cities in Iowa. Decker stated it is a very common finding except for cities with a larger Finance Department or those that contract out certain services.

Annual Presentation from Cedar Rapids Linn County (CR/LC) Solid Waste Agency

Joe Horaney with CR/LC Solid Waste Agency provided an annual update and information regarding the Forward 2044 initiative. Councilmember Miskimen asked if there has been a site determined for a transfer station after 2044. Horaney stated they have looked for property in southwest Cedar Rapids and northern Linn County. Councilmember Harper asked if alternative technologies are being investigated for extra capacity. Horaney stated even if CR/LC Solid Waste Agency doesn't have the technology, they can transfer the material to agencies that have the appropriate technology.

Presentation Regarding the Marion 2045 Comprehensive Plan

Charlie Cowell with RDG Planning and Design introduced the above referenced project and reviewed the schedule. Councilmember Harper asked if specific planning will be included for County Home Road, Highway 13 and Tower Terrace corridors. Cowell confirmed all commercial corridors will be included.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Update Regarding the Fire Department and the Transition of Volunteer Firefighter Programs

Fire Chief Tom Fagan provided an update on the department and current volunteer programs. Fagan stated the programs will be transitioned to a Community Emergency

Response Team (CERT) in the coming months. Councilmember Harper stated he is excited for this transition and the value that it brings to Marion. Councilmember Miskimen asked how many other communities in Iowa utilize CERT. Fagan stated he is unsure how many communities in Iowa have a CERT program but Linn County does and Marion's program will be modeled similarly. Councilmember Mentzer asked if there are any age or physical limitations. Fagan stated they would like to create diversity in Marion's program so will be reaching out to schools, healthcare facilities, educators and others.

Budget Discussion: Proposed Property Tax Rate & General Fund Updates

Finance Director Lianne Cairry provided an update regarding the proposed property tax rate and how there will be a slight increase due to how the City will be mowing the cemetery. Council did not have any reservation with sending the levy rate as presented to Linn County.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the February 22, 2024 agenda - Council discussed 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 Miskimen, seconded by Harper, to adjourn to closed session as stated above. Assistant City Attorney Dan Morgan stated that he 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 Mentzer, seconded by Harper, to reconvene to regular session.

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
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