



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, May 7, 2024
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 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, Randy Strnad, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: Sara Mentzer

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation Regarding the Uptown Marion Parking Study

Kevin Clarke with HKGi provided a review of the data collected and findings. Various short term, long term and ongoing strategies were shared. Councilmember Harper asked if counts were completed when an event was occurring Uptown. Clarke stated they did not include counts during summer events as those are one-time occurrences however, they did include counts when Giving Tree Theater had performances. Councilmember Jensen stated as conditions change over the next couple of years he hopes we can use this modeling to calculate future needs. Councilmember Miskimen asked how the City will communicate changes with residents and the business community. City Manager Ryan Waller stated staff will include this project in the project in motion document and strategic plan, and communication pieces will be provided in the IN FOCUS and messenger. Councilmember Jensen stated one strategy that caught his attention is the need to encourage private to private agreements. Planning Division Manager Dave Hockett provided next steps including shared parking agreements, implementation of a wayfinding plan, and establishing strategies for events.

Annual Presentation from Marion Chamber of Commerce

Jill Ackerman with the Marion Chamber of Commerce provided a review of their membership and the allocation of Marion's funding. Tami Schlamp with the Marion Chamber of Commerce reviewed the events that took place this past year. Ackerman shared information regarding their tourism initiatives and Community Development and Marion Chamber Foundation projects.

Annual Presentation Regarding the Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority (ICWMA)

Justin Schroeder, Vice Chair of ICWMA Board, shared information regarding the organization and key accomplishments from the past year. A review of the projects was

also provided.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion Regarding the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Amendment

Deputy Finance Director Brian McKenzie provided an overview of items included in the proposed budget amendment. A public hearing is scheduled for May 23, 2024.

Discussion Regarding Recreational Fires and Code Requirements

Division Chief Shawn Fluharty provided a review of the requirements regarding recreational fires and fire pits. Mayor AbouAssaly requested this information be included in the Messenger.

Discussion Regarding Fireworks

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller provided an overview of comparable communities and if they allow fireworks. Calls for service and citations issued since 2016 were shared for Cedar Rapids and Marion. Kitsmiller recommended not making any changes to the code. Councilmember Jensen and Mayor AbouAssaly both stated they agree with the recommendation.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the May 9, 2024 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Councilmember Mentzer arrived at 5:43 p.m.

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 7:47 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