



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, July 16, 2024
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, July 16, 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, Sara Mentzer, Randy Strnad, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: None

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/OATHS

Police Department Promotion: Sergeant Cory Berning to Lieutenant

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller spoke about the lieutenant position, shared Cory Berning's accomplishments and recognized his promotion.

PRESENTATIONS

Annual Presentation of the Marion Planning & Zoning Commission and the Marion Zoning Board of Adjustment

Planning Division Manager Dave Hockett and Commission Chair Landis Wiley provided an overview of the Planning & Zoning Commission and items reviewed in 2023. Councilmember Jensen asked about the review of items on the Commission and if members bring their own opinions forward when making decisions. Wiley stated a lot of the discussion is regarding the language of the code so answers are black and white but members do not hesitate to bring thoughts and ideas forward. Councilmember Mentzer asked about the decision process and if the Commission has all the tools it needs. Wiley spoke about the comprehensive planning process and issues they've seen when proposals come forward by developers. Mayor AbouAssaly requested Commission members come forward if they have recommendations or feedback for Council. Hockett also provided an overview of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and items they've reviewed in 2023.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion Regarding FY 25-26 Budget: Financial Policies

Finance Director Lianne Cairy provided a timeline and an overview of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget calendar, and discussed a change to take place in the Reserves and Contingencies Policy.

Discussion Regarding the Fire Department Accreditation

Fire Chief Tom Fagan provided information regarding the accreditation process and how it aligns with Marion and department goals. A timeline of the accreditation process was shared. Fagan also introduced Management Analyst Jamie Doyle to the team who started on June 15. Doyle will play a big part in the accreditation process. Councilmember Harper asked what the re-audit frequency would be once the accreditation hearing takes place. Fagan stated one requirement is that a compliance report be submitted annually for four years following accreditation and on the fifth year the City would apply for re-accreditation. Councilmember Jensen asked about the impact on the department for the potential increase in workload. Fagan stated the team has been preparing for accreditation for a number of years but more work is needed. The entire team is excited for this next step.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the July 18, 2024 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding real estate transactions and litigation as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(j) and Section 21.5(1)(c) of the Code of Iowa. (Three separate items)

Moved by Mentzer, 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

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer at 6:27 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer presided over the meeting.

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer adjourned the meeting at 6:50 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