



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, September 17, 2024
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, September 17, 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.

PRESENTATIONS

Jill Ackerman with Marion Chamber of Commerce introduced Lacey Schroeder the new Uptown Marion Director. Schroeder provided information about her background and recapped her first month with Uptown Marion.

Presentation regarding the Central Plaza Project

Deputy City Engineer Jake Hahn provided an update on the above referenced project. Items remaining include light poles, chiller/refrigeration package, and installation of sun shades, play structure, and ice loop pumps. Councilmember Jensen asked if we will be able to install the holiday tree in the plaza. Hahn stated the team will need to meet to determine where installation will take place.

Update regarding the Housing Rehabilitation Program within the City of Marion

Tracey Achenbach with Housing Fund for Linn County provided an update on the above referenced program. To date, 13 projects have been completed with three projects still in the construction phase. There are 11 other obligated projects with 24 households on the waitlist. Achenbach also spoke about the Providing Assistance to Community Homeowners (PATCH) program and how much of those funds have helped homes in Marion.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Update regarding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Study and the Community Risk Assessment Standards of Cover

Fire Chief Tom Fagan provided a review of the above referenced projects and shared a timeline for each. For the EMS Study, stakeholder engagement is this week.

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer

at 4:34 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer presided over the meeting.

The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) will be on site at the end of this month for the Standards of Cover.

Mayor AbouAssaly returned at 4:38 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Discussion and direction regarding 31st Street Sidewalk Project

Project Manager Greg Annis provided an update regarding the above referenced project. He stated the project will be split into two phases; from south of McGowan Blvd. to 25th Avenue and 8th Avenue to south of McGowan Blvd. Deputy City Manager Kim Downs provided more information on staff recommended next steps. The section from 8th Avenue to south of McGowan Blvd. will be discussed and evaluated in the upcoming Capital Improvement Program (CIP) discussions. Downs also stated the team will develop a sidewalk policy for how sidewalk installations are approached, constructed and funded. Councilmember Jensen spoke about the sidewalk gap presentation from a few months ago and looks forward to future discussions regarding sidewalk installations. Councilmember Harper stated he has spoken with three residents in this area who are not in support of adding sidewalk and are concerned they will have to pay for a portion of the installation. Councilmember Brandt stated he is in support of the north section being installed but would pause on installing the southern portion. Downs stated the south portion will be evaluated with all other proposed CIP projects.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the September 19, 2024 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items 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 Miskimen, 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 Jensen left the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:49 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