



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, October 1, 2024
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, October 1, 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, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: Randy Strnad

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding the Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) Camera Program

City Manager Ryan Waller stated that this annual update presentation was planned as part of the implementation of the program and was part of the published agenda which was posted on Friday, September 27. Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller presented data from the past year since the ATE camera program has been active. Information shared included total number of citations, number of red light versus speeding tickets, community requests for the mobile units and total deployments of the mobile unit. An overview of contested citations, orders to abate and municipal infractions was also provided. Kitsmiller stated he is encouraged by the reduced number of accidents and injuries. Kitsmiller spoke about the permitting process through the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the announcement yesterday regarding locations approved and denied. Kitsmiller stated he will be following up with the IDOT regarding next steps. Waller reconfirmed that the red light cameras were not a part of the permitting process and will still be active. Councilmember Brandt asked if additional locations for the mobile unit can be permitted. Kitsmiller stated we can appeal the denials but any new locations would not be able to be permitted until July 2026.

Councilmember Strnad arrived at 4:26 p.m.

Discussion and Direction Regarding the Parks Turf Management Plan

Parks Director Seth Staashelm provided an overview of the proposed Turf Management Plan, its purpose and why it's needed. Staashelm outlined the different priority levels in the plan and example locations for each. Councilmember Jensen asked about roundabouts and their priority. Staashelm stated it depends on the location. Those on 6th Avenue are level 2 and those in northern Marion are level 3.

Discussion Regarding the Establishment of an Uptown Parking Committee

Planning Division Manager Dave Hockett explained the purpose of the above referenced

committee and stated members would be Council appointed. Councilmember Harper asked if there would be parameters around the qualifications of members. City Manager Ryan Waller stated that is feedback we would be interested in receiving from Council and asked if there are additional considerations to send those to the team. Councilmember Jensen stated he is happy to see this moving forward and asked how long until the committee is formed. Hockett stated if Council is okay with moving forward, he will come back with a timeline. Council was all in support of moving forward with the creation of an Uptown Parking Committee.

Discussion Regarding the Extension the Commercial Development Moratorium

Planning Division Manager Dave Hockett spoke about the current moratorium along portions of Tower Terrace Road, Highway 13, and the Central Corridor zoning districts (approved by Ordinance No. 23-26). Hockett stated because the Comprehensive Plan will tentatively be finalized in Spring 2025, staff is requesting the moratorium be extended until July 1, 2025. Councilmember Jensen asked if individual projects could still come to City Council for a waiver of the moratorium similar to the previous two projects that came forward. Hockett confirmed.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the October 3, 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. (Four 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

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:44 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