



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, October 15, 2024
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, October 15, 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

Annual Presentation from Cedar Rapids Tourism

Julie Stow with Cedar Rapids Tourism provided an annual update regarding the past year activities, events and services. Councilmember Mentzer asked how Marion can take part in larger sporting events that come to the metro area. Stow stated when people attend an event, they want to get out and about to see the area. The destination guide helps by showing what else is in the area. Mayor AbouAssaly and Councilmember Mentzer stated they would like to meet with Cedar Rapids Tourism to discuss more about what Marion can be doing to help bring visitors to Marion.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Budget Discussion: Asset Replacement Program

Deputy Finance Director Brian McKenzie provided an overview of the program and expenditure and cash flow scenarios for each fund. Short-term and long-term next steps were also shared. Councilmember Jensen asked how the projected replacement cost was determined. McKenzie explained that the model has a formula that takes the original purchase price, life expectancy and a standard inflation rate to calculate the anticipated replacement cost. City Manager Ryan Waller stated the asset replacement schedule was deconstructed and rebuilt last year. He thanked the Finance Department and directors for their work on this. Councilmember Harper asked if items over \$500 and a useful life of three years or longer are the right thresholds. McKenzie stated the goal last year was to capture everything. Next year, Finance will evaluate the asset replacement schedule and thresholds to determine what assets can be absorbed in department's operating budgets.

Discussion Regarding Health and Dental Insurance for Calendar Year 2025

Human Resources Manager Lucas Sperfslage provided plan overviews for the upcoming renewal of health and dental insurance. Councilmember Jensen asked if seed money

would eventually go away. Sperflage stated that will be evaluated each year. In addition, instead of seed money, the City could decide to match Health Savings Account (HSA) contributions.

Discussion and Direction Regarding a Proposed Drainageway Maintenance Policy

Stormwater Coordinator Steve Cooper provided information regarding a draft policy regarding drainageway maintenance in Marion. Sanitary and Stormwater Manager Justin Dolley discussed two recent maintenance projects. Cooper stated the team will work over the next year to finalize the policy and bring it back to Council for adoption. Councilmember Jensen said this policy will be great to have especially as the Stormwater Master Plan is being developed.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

Public Works Director Mike Barkalow provided a brief update regarding the Automated Collection Program and its progress.

City Council review of the October 17, 2024 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

CLOSED SESSION

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

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

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:45 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