



## **MINUTES**

### **City Council Work Session**

**4:00 PM - Tuesday, December 1, 2020**

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

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The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Grant Harper, Colette Atkins, Steve Jensen, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Will Brandt, Rene Gadelha, and Randy Strnad

**ABSENT:** None

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Tracey Achenbach with ECICOG, provided information regarding the Linn County PATCH program. PATCH stands for Providing Assistance to Community Homeowners. This program stemmed out of concern for homeowners in Linn County in result of the Derecho and will provide assistance with construction management support and offer loans up to \$15,000. A press release will be distributed this week regarding the launch of the program. Mayor AbouAssaly asked for information about LAPAID. Tracey stated that LAPAID, or Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster, is a group of organizations that coordinate and identify the needs in the area when a disaster hits Linn County. Council Member Brandt asked if mobile homes qualify for the program. Tracey stated that mobile homes are eligible if they are taxed as real estate. She stated they want to collect data from those in mobile homes that need assistance and then look at alternate funding to help. Community Development Director Tom Treharne stated he has been in close communication with Marion Village and stated that Marion Cares has helped almost 50 mobile home owners to help put skirting on the units.

Council discussed items for Thursday night's council meeting with no action taken.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Jensen at 4:42 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen presided over the meeting.

Council discussed items for Thursday night's council meeting with no action taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 4:48 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Council discussed items for Thursday night's council meeting with no action taken.

## **OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION**

Community Development Director Tom Treharne provided an update regarding the 7th Avenue Streetscape Plan including the north 11th Street plaza. He shared concept drawings provided by RDG Planning and Design that included tree placement, lighting options, paving options, and feature areas. He stated there are three main issues that are being discussed internally which include what paving option to move forward with, making sure if a building is redeveloped they would have easy access to water lines for sprinkler systems and ADA accessibility to the buildings. Mayor AbouAssaly stated regarding paving options, he would like to see comparisons and cost estimates for each option. He would also like to see what the long term cost savings would be and how long material will last before it needs to be resurfaced. Council Member Harper stated Council needs to think about lifecycle costs when it comes to maintenance. He also shared a concern about vehicles turning into the plaza areas if there aren't barriers. Council Member Brandt also shared concerns about vehicles driving onto sidewalks if there aren't barriers. Council Member Strnad spoke about enforcing weight limits on our streets. Council Member Jensen asked if there are plans to repurpose the current bricks on 10th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. Tom stated staff have not gotten into those details. The business in Iowa City that has reclaimed bricks showed interest in taking any bricks we had. Council Member Jensen stated it would be nice to repurpose them in one of the plaza projects. Council Member Brandt stated in regards to the ADA accessibility and sprinkler issues, he would like to see all options including size of water lines and grants available for ADA accessibility. Council Member Gadelha stated she is excited to see the concept drawings. She feels we should be investing in this area as it will help with tourism and hotel-motel. She also stated she would rather put investment towards signing, lighting, and wayfinding instead of bricks in the street since they have more lifetime value. She also asked if the plan increases or decreases parking. Tom stated he would have to look into the overall parking numbers. Council Member Gadelha stated this project will bring more people to the area and parking should be increased. Council Member Brandt agreed that parking should be increased. He also stated upkeep and ongoing maintenance needs to be discussed. Tom stated that some of those conversations have started internally. Tom stated staff are hoping to get plans wrapped up in the next few weeks and RDG will present final plans to Council. Council Member Atkins stated she is very excited about this project and feels like it will be important to have all the information and options in order for Council to make decisions.

City Manager Lon Pluckhahn stated staff have been seeing positive trends but until we know outcome of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the City will continue to operate using phase one protocols. He doesn't anticipate opening facilities before mid-January. He also discussed the Governor's press conference today and her call to action for federal government relief for businesses and the leave established for COVID.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Jensen and left the meeting at 5:57 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen presided over the meeting.

City Engineer Mike Barkalow provided an overview of CIP Projects that will be proposed for the Airport that were submitted by the Marion Municipal Airport Committee. They included the following:

1. purchase of a beacon,
2. fence, sign, entrance and drive reconstruction,
3. airport approach,
4. burying power lines,
5. VHF (Very High Frequency) communications,
6. removal of quonset hut,
7. repaint the compass rose,
8. property purchase in the RPZ (runway protection zone)
9. Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS)
10. Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPI) and Visual Approach Slope Indicators (VASI), and
11. construction of an observation parking lot.

Council Member Gadelha asked why the City would purchase the land in the RPZ area if nothing can be built on it. Mike stated property owners won't want to hold on to it if nothing can be done. Council Member Gadelha asked if this was a requirement or a recommendation. Mike stated this is a recommendation from the airport committee. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen asked if the projects are listed in priority order. Mike stated they were listed in order of importance. Council Member Gadelha asked if any of the entities that will benefit from these projects will help with funding. City Manager Lon Pluckhahn stated some would be good projects to look for grants from the DOT. Council Member Gadelha stated she would like to know which projects are required versus recommended. Council Member Harper stated it is a prioritized list and each project was looked at for safety as a whole. He also spoke regarding the approach and its importance. Mayor Pro Tem Jensen stated there was also talk about an economic impact study being prepared for the airport. A large investment will be difficult to support without seeing the long term impact. Council Member Strnad stated he has been attending the airport committee meeting the last couple of years and he was one of the advocates to get these items in front of Council. He stated a few of these projects will be critical for safety of the runway.

Mayor Pro Tem Jensen adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

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Steve Jensen, Mayor Pro Tem

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Rachel Bolender, City Clerk

The undersigned City Clerk of Marion, Iowa certifies that the minutes shown immediately above were published in the Marion Times on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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Rachel Bolender, City Clerk