



## **MINUTES**

### **City Council Work Session**

**4:00 PM - Monday, November 1, 2021**

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, Monday, November 1, 2021, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

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

**ABSENT:** None

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

#### **AGENDA**

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

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem at 4:39 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Atkins presided over the meeting.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Atkins relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 4:40 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

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

#### **OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION**

##### **Discussion regarding Community Survey Questions**

Communications Manager Amber Bisinger spoke regarding the community survey questions. Council Member Brandt stated he is satisfied with the questions as is. Council Member Jensen stated to keep consistency with questions from two years ago. He also asked about timeline of survey and the results. Bisinger stated she hopes to have the results before budget work session and will know after meeting with the representative on Tuesday. Council Member Jensen asked if the survey is sent out as a hard copy or electronically. Bisinger stated 1200 paper copies will be mailed to a random selection of residents and 1500 postcard invitations will go out to complete the survey electronically. Once those are complete, the survey will be opened to all residents. Council Member Gadelha asked if the data will be compared to previous years. Bisinger stated there is a dashboard that staff will have access to which will help drill down the data for comparison.

##### **Discussion regarding Marion Transit**

Associate Planner Kesha Billings discussed the current transit system in Marion. She provided information regarding ridership counts and a history of the transit service. Council Member Jensen asked why there is a 15% increase for next fiscal year. Billings stated the increase is due to increase in operations costs. Billings shared information regarding transit tax levy percentages for other municipalities in Iowa. Billings introduced the concept of an "on demand" service provided by Horizons. She stated next steps would include a survey of transit users, cost analysis of transit options, further discussions during the budget process and development of a contract for transit services. Mayor AbouAssaly stated the cost to the user is a very important consideration. Council Member Atkins stated it sounds like a great idea but asked for data from other similar sized communities to see what type of transit systems work best. Council Member Strnad stated Cedar Rapids spoke to the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization about the transit system recently and he would like to see more data regarding current ridership. He stated he is excited to look into this on demand system.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding litigation as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(c) of the Code of Iowa.

Moved by Strnad, seconded by Atkins, 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 relinquished the gavel and left the meeting at 5:48 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Atkins presided over the meeting.

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

Approved unanimously

### **ADJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Atkins adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

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Colette Atkins, 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 Gazette on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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Rachel Bolender, City Clerk