



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 19, 2022

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 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, and Sara Mentzer

ABSENT: Randy Strnad

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation regarding the Indian Creek Master Plan for Creekside Pride (ISG)

Staci Williams with ISG spoke regarding the Indian Creek Master Plan and presented nine site locations and features. Councilmember Jensen asked about the average water levels as well as the distance from site one to site nine. Williams stated the entire distance is around seven to eight miles and the depth varies throughout. Mayor AbouAssaly stated that this project has been in the works for several years and he's excited for this process.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Brandt at 5:37 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Brandt presided over the meeting.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion and Direction regarding the Outdoor Aquatic Center Plan

Parks Director Seth Staashelm provided three concepts for the aquatic center. Concept A would be a full build of the aquatic center according to the study and community feedback. Concept B would allow for growth with the potential addition of the wave pool. Concept C would be the least expensive but does not meet the needs of the study. Councilmember Jensen stated he would be in favor of Concept B where a feature can be added in the future. Councilmember Atkins stated she is also in favor of Concept B. Councilmember Harper was also in support of Concept B. Councilmember Mentzer would like Concept A but would support Concept B as well. Mayor Pro Tem Brandt stated he would like to have the larger layout similar to Concept B but all the amenities of Concept A. Councilmember Harper agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Brandt.

Discussion and Direction regarding Transit Service in Marion

Associate Planner Kesha Billings presented an overview of the results from the transit user survey. City Manager Ryan Waller provided information gathered from meetings with Cedar Rapids, Linn County Lifts and Horizons as well as conversations with Iowa Department of Transportation. Waller stated it is recommended to pursue a 28E Agreement with Cedar Rapids to continue fixed route transit service through the next year and then take that time to continue conversations with all partners. Councilmember Jensen stated he felt if we rushed to have something approved by July 1 we wouldn't have the best service but likes that staff will now have additional time to find the best solution for Marion. Councilmember Harper is in support with moving forward with an agreement through fiscal year 2023 and take the next year to determine the best solution. Councilmember Atkins was also in support of the plan.

Discussion and Direction regarding Truck Routes

City Engineer Mike Barkalow outlined two plans for truck routes. Councilmember Harper stated he would prefer to allow trucks on highways only but shift to 6th Avenue within Uptown Marion. Councilmember Jensen agrees with Councilmember Harper. Mayor Pro Tem Brandt stated he also supports having truck routes on highways only.

Presentation regarding the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Amendment

Assistant Finance Director Brian McKenzie explained the budget amendment process and provided information regarding what transactions are included in the amendment. Councilmember Harper asked if a portion of this adjustment is due to supply chain or cost increases. McKenzie stated a large portion of this amendment is due to carryovers.

Discussion and Direction Regarding Proposed Recruitment Policy

Human Resources Director Kirsten Fisher presented information regarding an employee referral program that will start initially within the Police Department. Councilmember Mentzer asked if this was a standing program for all positions. Fisher stated a referral program would be determined per position and implemented as needed.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding personnel matters as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(i) of the Code of Iowa.

Moved by Harper, seconded by Jensen, 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 Atkins, seconded by Harper, to reconvene to regular session.

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Brandt adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Will Brandt, Mayor Pro Tem

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