



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, September 20, 2022

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, September 20, 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, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Will Brandt, Sara Mentzer, and Randy Strnad

ABSENT: Colette Atkins

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation from Trees Forever regarding the Campus Improvement Project

Kiley Miller, president and CEO of Trees Forever, presented information regarding recent activities in Marion and provided an update on their campus improvement project. Councilmember Harper asked when the project would be completed. Miller stated construction will be completed in October but planting will be done in November.

Presentation of the Housing Needs Analysis Summary and Findings (Maxfield Research & Consulting)

Mary Bujold, president of Maxfield Research and Consulting LLC, presented the results from the Housing Needs Analysis. Councilmember Jensen asked what would be classified as an entry-level homes. Bujold stated they see entry-level homes priced from \$80,000 to \$180,000. Councilmember Strnad asked if there is any data for those who could own a home but choose not to purchase. Bujold stated they could make some estimates but overall they are seeing a larger portion of people that choose to rent long term due to it being a greater convenience.

Presentation regarding the Central Plaza Survey Results

Community Development Director Tom Treharne reviewed the results of the Central Plaza Survey that was open August 11 to August 31.

AGENDA

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

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Budget Discussion: Asset Replacement

Finance Director Lianne Cairry reviewed the current asset replacement program,

challenges, historical costs and future projections.

Discussion and direction regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding allocation for the Marion Community Build Project

City Manager Ryan Waller provided an overview of the Marion Community Build Project and the proposed funding. Councilmember Harper spoke in support of moving forward with funding. Mayor AbouAssaly also spoke in support of funding.

Discussion regarding City Wide No Parking Determination and Procedure

City Engineer Mike Barkalow provided some information regarding past action by City Council regarding no parking requests. Barkalow also outlined next steps if Council is in support of moving forward. Councilmember Brandt spoke in favor of continuing with this plan. Councilmember Harper also spoke in support of reviewing the entire city. Councilmember Jensen spoke in support and asked how much of the city would be impacted. Barkalow stated he doesn't know percentage but stated it may include any street built before 2014.

Discussion regarding Design Standards

Community Development Director Tom Treharne provided information regarding a proposed ordinance related to design standards and next steps. Councilmember Jensen asked if trees and plantings are a part of design standards. Treharne stated there is a plan but it is not a part of the design standards process.

CLOSED SESSION

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

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Nicolas AbouAssaly, Mayor

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