



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, March 19, 2024

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, March 19, 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, and Randy Strnad

ABSENT: Gage Miskimen

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Annual Presentation from Uptown Marion

Brooke Prouty and Ben Davis with Uptown Marion provided an overview of the accomplishments from the past year and initiatives for the year ahead. Councilmember Jensen asked how the streetscape and plaza projects have impacted new businesses relocating to Uptown. Prouty stated the interest in Uptown locations has not slowed down since 2020 and COVID. Councilmember Harper asked for an update regarding the potential Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID). Prouty stated there have been a few meetings to discuss if there is interest in a SSMID and it was determined more outreach is needed to the business community as well as more discussions with the City before moving forward.

Presentation Regarding the Housing Rehabilitation Program within the City of Marion

Tracey Achenbach with the Housing Fund for Linn County provided an overview of the program and reviewed applications received and current status.

Presentation Regarding the Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) Report for the IA 13 Corridor Traffic Study

Tim Crouch with Snyder and Associates provided an overview of the above referenced TEAP report including recommendations and alternatives for most intersections along the IA 13 Corridor. Councilmember Mentzer asked if this traffic report will feed into the comprehensive plan. City Engineer Mike Barkalow stated this traffic report is more detailed and uses actual traffic counts where the comprehensive plan would just look at zoned uses. Councilmember Jensen asked about cost differences and funding sources between the provided recommendations. City Engineer Mike Barkalow reviewed the funding sources that Marion has used in the past. Barkalow provided an overview of next steps.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Budget Discussion: Capital Improvement Program FY25-29

Deputy Finance Director Brian McKenzie reviewed projects that were added to the recommended Capital Improvement Program. Councilmember Jensen asked why activation of the Irish Drive Traffic signal is scheduled for fiscal year 2027 as he feels it should be sooner. Councilmember Mentzer and Councilmember Harper both stated they agree that it be activated sooner. Council members and staff were in support of moving that project up to fiscal year 2025.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the March 21, 2024 agenda. Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:28 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