



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 2, 2024

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, April 2, 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, Randy Strnad, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: None

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation from the Linn Mar Venture Group Regarding Naming of Coopers Creek

Students from the Linn Mar Venture Group provided information regarding their recommendation to name a currently unnamed creek as Coopers Creek. Councilmember Miskimen thanked the students for bringing this idea forward. He also asked how long renaming a creek would take. City Engineer Mike Barkalow stated the timing is unknown as it is up to the federal government. Councilmember Harper congratulated the students on all their hard work with this project. Councilmember Jensen asked if there would be a sign that tells the story of how the creek was named and if students will assist with cleanup. A student stated signs will only say Coopers Creek and they are looking for volunteers to help with cleanup. Mayor AbouAssaly thanked the students for their work and collaboration with stakeholders on this project. Councilmember Mentzer asked if we have to collaborate with Cedar Rapids with this naming. Environmental Specialist Thomas Doyle stated this item will be going to City of Cedar Rapids and Linn County.

Annual Presentation from the Marion Water Board

General Manager Todd Steigerwaldt and Chair Terry Chew provided a look at the fiscal year 2025 budget for the Water Department and discussed a future well and storage building. Mayor AbouAssaly asked how it is determined when a new well is needed. Steigerwaldt stated staff anticipate development trends and then perform studies to determine the best location.

Update Regarding Automated Curbside Collection Services and Next Steps

Jeff Phillips with SCS Engineers provided a review of the recommended cart sizes, proposed services and costs, and next steps. Councilmember Jensen asked if this program would be rolled out one quadrant at a time or all at once. Phillips stated the plan is to roll out to all residents in September. Councilmember Jensen shared concerns with

the increase proposed. City Manager Ryan Waller stated our utilities are enterprise funds and that collections need to cover the expenses. Councilmember Harper asked why the recycling fee increased. Phillips stated the rate increased due to an increase from the Solid Waste Agency. Communications Manager Amber Bisinger provided an overview of the communication plan for this project. Councilmember Brandt asked if the fee for yard waste would be collected all year. Phillips stated it would be. Councilmember Mentzer shared concerns with the proposed increase. Councilmember Jensen asked to see rates from comparable communities. Phillips stated they can provide that information but to keep in mind each community has unique fees and services. Councilmember Brandt shared additional concerns regarding the proposed yard waste service and proposed fees.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion and Direction on Utility Rates for FY2025

Michael Maloney with DA Davidson provided a review of the Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Stormwater and Urban Forest funds and proposed utility rates. Councilmember Jensen spoke about communication with residents and key points to make. City Manager Ryan Waller stated this analysis will be completed annually with discussion on utility rates each year during the budget process.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the April 4, 2024 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding litigation and real estate transactions as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(c) and Section 21.5(1)(j) of the Code of Iowa (four separate matters)

Moved by Miskimen, 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

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Miskimen at 7:26 p.m. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Miskimen presided over the meeting.

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Miskimen adjourned the meeting at 8:28 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