



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 16, 2024

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

Due to impending severe weather, this meeting was held electronically in accordance with Iowa Code 21.8 and 21.4.

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, April 16, 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

Annual Presentation from Trees Forever

This item was removed from the agenda and postponed for a future meeting.

Annual Presentation from Marion Chamber of Commerce

This item was removed from the agenda and postponed for a future meeting.

Presentation from SCS to Provide Additional Information Regarding the Automated Collection System and Fee Recommendations

Jeff Phillips with SCS Engineers provided a review of different yard waste subscription and service rates. Councilmembers asked clarifying questions about what has been discussed regarding the automated collection system to date. Phillips then provided three scenarios for proposed services and fees as follows:

- Option 1 includes garbage and recycling weekly service for \$25 per month per household with the option to add yard waste collection for \$10 per month per household.
- Option 2 includes garbage and recycling weekly with curbside yard waste collection subsidized for \$28.70 to \$30.58 per month per household.
- Option 3 includes garbage and recycling weekly for \$25.89 to \$26.45 per month per household with the option to add yard waste collection for \$5 per month per household.

City Manager Ryan Waller stated staff is recommending Option 1. With Option 2, there would be a higher capital cost as carts would be purchased for all residents even if they don't participate in yard waste collection. Option 2 would also result in trucks and staff

going to all properties regardless if they are participating or not. With the opt-in service, staff would know the specific properties and can route trucks more efficiently. Waller stated we are looking for Council feedback on what would be a good entry rate for this program. Phillips reviewed next steps and future touch points with residents.

Councilmember Mentzer shared concerns for the rate increase as it relates to yard waste collection. Waller stated the yard waste service that has been provided to the community over the years has not been charged appropriately to cover the cost of operations. He stated the increase is also due to updating the fleet and the new facility. Finance Director Lianne Cairry stated another important item to remember is this new program and larger containers will allow for more garbage and recycling that can be collected. It would also reduce the amount of garbage stickers and yard waste bags that need to be purchased by residents. Councilmembers all gave their opinions on which option to move forward with and all were in support of Option 3 and ranged from having the yard waste service at \$6 or \$7 a month. Mayor AbouAssaly stated residents will be shocked about the increase so the more we can ease into the program the better. City Manager Ryan Waller provided a recap on how staff will move forward with communications to residents.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion and Direction Regarding Financial Statement Preparation and Auditing Services

Finance Director Lianne Cairry provided a review of how the above referenced services are handled and the proposed method starting in fiscal year 2025. Councilmember Jensen stated he does not have any issues with the proposal to negotiate with Hogan-Hansen for financial statement preparation and then issuing a request for proposal regarding auditing services. Councilmember Harper stated he is okay with staff's recommendation.

Discussion regarding the City of Marion applying for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

Public Services Director Mike Barkalow and Traffic & Roadway Lighting Manager Tom Jordan provided information regarding the above referenced grant and locations where lights are to be replaced.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the April 18, 2024 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:25 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