



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, June 4, 2024

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, June 4, 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, Sara Mentzer, Randy Strnad, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: Will Brandt

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/OATHS

Police Department Promotion: Officer Adam Paulsen to Sergeant

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller spoke about the sergeant position, shared Paulsen's accomplishments and recognized his promotion.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation regarding the Central Plaza Project

Louis Ruggio with Rinderknecht Associates spoke about the above referenced project including items completed, ongoing and upcoming.

Annual Presentation from Marion Arts Council

Mark Weiser and Ingrid Branez Condorena with the Marion Arts Council spoke about the committee, their purpose and provided a summary of the events that occurred this past year. Councilmember Jensen stated he has received inquiries about art features in the center of the roundabouts. Parks Director Seth Staashelm stated roundabout art features have been discussed before but it has not risen to the top of the priority project list.

Councilmember Brandt arrived at 4:21 p.m.

Annual Presentation from Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO)

Liz Burke with the CMPO spoke about the various boards and committees, their purpose, services and project funding. Councilmember Mentzer asked how the CMPO is funded. Burke stated 80% is funded from the federal government and the member communities pay dues that amount to the remaining 20%. Councilmember Harper provided more information regarding the CMPO committees. Mayor AbouAssaly asked what types of projects qualify for funding. Burke stated anything classified above a local street can be eligible and all trails are eligible.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Presentation regarding community sidewalk gaps and installation requirements related to the Safe Routes to School Program

Planning Division Manager Dave Hockett provided information regarding the gaps within the city, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and the options available to install sidewalk. Councilmember Strnad asked what the plan is to fill the gaps along Winslow Road. Hockett stated staff meet with the schools every month and priority areas have been identified. Councilmember Jensen stated his priority areas would be the SRTS routes and all the little gaps where one lot is missing sidewalk when there is sidewalk on either side. Councilmember Mentzer clarified that the Marion Independent SRTS plan is for the entire district while the Linn-Mar SRTS plan is only for certain buildings within the district. Councilmember Brandt stated he agrees with Councilmember Jensen about what should be a priority. Hockett outlined next steps including creation of an updated and combined map and then bringing back priorities areas and the recommended process. Council was in agreement that staff should require those properties that have a memorandum of agreement requiring sidewalk installation be completed.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the June 6, 2024 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:30 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