



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, November 5, 2024

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, November 5, 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, Will Brandt, Sara Mentzer, Randy Strnad, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: Nicolas AbouAssaly

Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation regarding the Central Plaza Project

Deputy City Engineer Jake Hahn and Louis Ruggio with Rinderknecht Associates provided an update regarding the Central Plaza Project. Completed, ongoing and upcoming items were shared. Parks Director Seth Staashelm shared information regarding holiday lights and operation of the ice skating loop.

Annual Presentation from Marion Public Library Board of Trustees

Library Director Bill Carroll and Board Chair Ross McIntyre provided information from this past fiscal year including new services and attendance statistics. Councilmember Miskimen thanked the board for making the Library a community center for all residents. Councilmember Jensen stated he would be interested to see statistics of where library attendees are coming from. Councilmember Harper asked if there are any building items still needing attention. Carroll stated they have discovered a couple of leaks and are working with the contractor for repairs. Councilmember Strnad also congratulated the team and the Library's success.

Mayor AbouAssaly arrived at 4:33 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

Recognition of Five Voice of the People Awards

Communications Manager Amber Bisinger provided information regarding the above referenced awards that Marion recently received from Polco and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for its commitment to resident-centered decision-making. Marion was recognized for 1) Excellence in community design, 2) Transformation in parks and recreation, 3) Transformation in mobility, 4) Transformation in the natural environment, and 5) Transformation in community design.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion and direction regarding City Council Office Hours

Communications Manager Amber Bisinger spoke about City Council Office Hours and provided a recommendation to be present at Taube Park from May to September and the Marion Public Library from November to March and taking off the months in between (April and October). Council spoke in support of that recommended schedule.

Budget Discussion: Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2026-2030

Deputy Finance Director Brian McKenzie provided a quick overview of the Capital Improvement Program and outlined key points for consideration. A list of staff recommended projects was shared with an additional list of projects for Council consideration. Discussion and prioritization of the shared projects will occur at the December 17 Council meeting.

Update regarding Stormwater Master Plan Project Kickoff

Stormwater Coordinator Steve Cooper provided a quick history regarding the Stormwater Master Plan and outlined tentative schedule for development. Councilmember Miskimen asked if this has ever been done in Marion. Cooper stated there have been smaller scale planning documents but this is the first master plan for Stormwater.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the November 7, 2024 agenda - Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Moved by Mentzer, 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

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 7:40 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