



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, November 19, 2024

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Steve Jensen, Nicolas AbouAssaly, Will Brandt, Sara Mentzer, Randy Strnad, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: Grant Harper

Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Annual Presentation from the Park Board

Amy Hussel with the Park Board provided information of the Board's mission, vision and goals. Initiatives from the past year were shared as well as goals and projects for the year ahead. Councilmember Miskimen asked what the biggest challenge is in the Parks and Recreation world. Hussel stated the board doesn't always see the obstacles but board members are always there to support the Parks team in any way they can.

Presentation regarding the Winter Lights Program

Mike Cimprich and Nikki Wilcox with the 2024-2025 Marion Leadership in Action Class provided an overview of the peace tree and shared information regarding the two items the class would like to purchase in 2025. The class is asking the City to donate matching funds up to \$20,000. Councilmember Jensen stated he loves all the lights in Uptown and is excited that Marion has become a destination.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Overview regarding Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) Use

Police Chief Mike Kitsmiller shared information on any incidents that have occurred since August 2022 when the UTV ordinance was approved. With there being no incidents since the last update, Kitsmiller asked if Council would like to keep receiving updates every six months. Mayor AbouAssaly has been pleasantly surprised with the outcome of the UTV implementation so would be fine to just have updates in the monthly reports. Council was in agreement.

Update regarding the Public Safety Training Facility

Fire Chief Tom Fagan provided an update regarding construction of the Public Safety Training Facility. Fagan stated they are working with area partners and other fire

departments on future agreements to use the facility.

Discussion Regarding the Central Plaza Ice Loop Operations Plan

Brinkley Braden and Drew Mollenhauer with the Parks Department shared information regarding the soft opening of the ice loop to take place in January 2025 and the full operations to start next season (November 2025). Councilmember Jensen asked for more information on the two days closed for maintenance. Mollenhauer stated the closure for two days is tentative and may change after the soft opening. The two days will also be used for programming activities. Mayor AbouAssaly stated communication will be key about the soft-opening and full operations plus leisure use of the ice loop.

Discussion Regarding Snow and Ice Program and Policy for 2024-2025

Public Works Director Mike Barkalow provided a draft version of the policy referenced above and stated the team is collaborating with Linn County, City of Cedar Rapids and the school districts. A final version of the policy will be brought to Council in December for approval.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the November 21, 2024 agenda. Council discussed the upcoming agenda 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 Jensen, seconded by Strnad, 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

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:59 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