



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, January 21, 2025

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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 Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

Doug Neumann with the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance presented information from the previous year, spoke about what the Alliance provides and introduced Jodi Schafer. Schafer is the new Talent Attraction Director who was hired as part of the areas Collaborative Growth Initiative. Schafer discussed the items coming forward as part of the above referenced initiative. Councilmember Mentzer asked how this initiative is different then others that have previously taken place. Neumann stated some of the infrastructure will remain the same however marketing and the geographic target areas will be different due to data enhancements. Councilmember Mentzer asked how Marion can assist with this effort. Neumann stated Marion has been a great partner and will let us know if anything is needed. Councilmember Jensen asked how City amenities will be shared with potential businesses. Neumann stated marketing will be a big part of this initiative.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Aquatic Center Project Update: Willowood Park

Parks Director Seth Staashelm provided an update on the Willowood Park redevelopment including a recap of the Neighborhood Meeting that took place on January 13. Staashelm outlined future touch points with Council including discussions regarding continuation of Willowood Pool operations, the plan for Willowood Pool for either result of the referendum vote, park redevelopment plan and commitments regarding funding and maintenance. Councilmember Miskimen asked if the residents in that neighborhood understand the repairs needed to the Willowood Pool. Staashelm stated continued education on the condition of Willowood Pool will be important throughout this entire process. City Manager Ryan Waller stated with the Farmer's Market moving to Willowood, the team has talked about giving tours of the current facility so people can see the issues and repairs needed. Councilmember Harper asked what

the high risk elements for failure are. Staashelm stated the shell of the pool is always a concern.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council Review of the January 23, 2025 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. (Three separate matters)

Moved by Mentzer, seconded by Miskimen, to adjourn to closed session as stated above. Assistant City Attorney Holly Corkery 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

Councilmember Miskimen left the meeting at 5:40 p.m. Council continued closed session.

Mayor AbouAssaly left the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer at 5:50 p.m. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer presided over the meeting.

Councilmember Brandt left the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Council continued closed session.

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Mentzer adjourned the meeting at 6:31 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