



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, February 4, 2025

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, February 4, 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, and Gage Miskimen

ABSENT: Randy Strnad

Mayor AbouAssaly 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. Councilmember Jensen asked if there will be a soft opening of the ice loop this season. Ruggio explained some project delays and stated they are a month behind schedule. Hahn stated end of February/early March would be the initial test pour and at this time staff is not anticipating a soft-opening until Fall/Winter 2025. Councilmember Brandt asked if there is a date when the space will be open and fences removed. Ruggio stated the goal is to remove fencing by the end of February.

Councilmember Strnad arrived at 4:09 p.m.

Councilmember Jensen asked if the Central Plaza will be fully irrigated. Hahn stated all the gardens do have irrigation.

Annual Presentation by Area Ambulance Service (AAS)

Jennifer Peden with AAS provided an update regarding the past year regarding Emergency Medical Services and the Ambulance Program in the City of Marion. Councilmember Strnad asked how many transports went to one of the new emergency departments and then had a secondary transport to the downtown location. Peden stated last month there were 10-15 patients but stated she can send exact data later this week. Councilmember Strnad asked about patient billing and how that is handled. Peden stated if they have carrier information, that carrier is billed first. Councilmember Strnad asked if Marion transports are consistent throughout the past few years and how the paramedics in our Fire Department help support. Fire Chief Tom Fagan stated paramedics will join the ambulance if another set of hands is needed for the patient. He also stated the

number of transports has slightly increased year after year. Councilmember Strnad asked if the response time standards is an industry standard. Peden stated that is one item they would like addressed in their EMS study with Fitch & Associates. Councilmember Harper asked for more information about the hybrid ALS and BLS deployment models mentioned. Peden stated there is a national shortage of paramedics and so they are seeking feedback from the EMS Study on how to best staff and deploy ambulances. Councilmember Brandt asked once their new location opens up next to Mercy, if the location where ambulances are posted would change. Peden stated that is another item that Fitch & Associates will help AAS determine. Keith Rippey with AAS provided additional information regarding training for EMTs and paramedics.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding Resident Proposal Concerning Uptown Electrical Boxes

Councilmember Harper provided information regarding the request that was submitted to update utility boxes in the Uptown area. City Manager Ryan Waller stated staff's recommendation would be to refer this request to the Marion Arts Council to come up with a recommendation for Council to consider. Councilmember Jensen stated he would support this on a smaller targeted geographical area instead of the entire City. All council members were in support.

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Miskimen at 4:44 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Miskimen presided over the meeting.

Update regarding the Marion Municipal Airport

City Manager Ryan Waller outlined steps that have been taken to date regarding the Airport. He recapped the Airport Visioning Team's (AVT's) purpose and findings. Waller then provided information regarding meetings that have occurred with LuxAir since February 2024. On Thursday, there will be action to set a public hearing to accept proposals for purchase of the runway with the intention for this property to remain as an airport.

Mayor Pro Tem Miskimen relinquished the gavel to Mayor AbouAssaly at 4:50 p.m. Mayor AbouAssaly presided over the meeting.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

City Council review of the February 6, 2025 agenda. Council discussed the agenda items with no action taken.

ADJOURN

Mayor AbouAssaly adjourned the meeting at 5:10 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