



MINUTES

City Council Work Session

4:00 PM - Tuesday, March 4, 2025

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

The City Council of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met in informal work session, Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 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

Presentation regarding the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit from Hogan-Hansen, PC

Jennifer Decker with Hogan-Hansen, PC provided an overview of the above referenced audit report.

Update regarding the Bell Tower Lofts project

Darryl High with High Properties provided an update regarding the above referenced project. Councilmember Miskimen asked what challenges they are seeing. High stated they have run into termites and asbestos issues and have concerns about the tariffs that are being implemented. Councilmember Jensen asked if the location of the bell has been determined yet. High stated he thinks it will be installed in the alley for the public to see and interact with.

Discussion and Direction regarding the Central Plaza Sculpture Design

Jill Ackerman and Karen Hoyt with Art Sculpture Committee for the Central Plaza Project provided an update on the Central Plaza Sculpture. Councilmember Mentzer stated she is part of the Art Sculpture Committee and explained more about the process and reasons behind the new recommendation. Councilmember Jensen asked if the finish holds up under our weather conditions. Deputy Parks Director Brent Neighbor stated they will need to bring this idea back to the artist and will find out more at that time. Councilmember Brandt asked if there is concern with the reflection and it shining in someone's unit or a passing car. Neighbor stated he is not sure but will follow up with the artist. Council was in support to proceed and take the recommendation back to the artist.

OTHER DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Presentation Regarding the Recent Snow Event

Operation and Street Maintenance Manager Matt Morris and Maintenance Supervisor

Broc Dobling shared information about the most recent snow event that occurred Feb. 12-16 and how Public Works and Parks Department crews clear the snow. Councilmember Jensen stated the snow event and roads were cleared as expected and he wanted to make sure residents know that staff can only work so many hours and they needed to go home and rest. Councilmember Mentzer asked if anything changed in our snow removal policy compared to previous years. Public Works Director Mike Barkalow stated the major change was that they aren't applying sand to streets. Deputy City Manager Kim Downs stated the team is always looking to improve and will debrief after a weather event to see what can be done differently. Downs stated part of the new website development will be a text alert system and staff will also be looking at a platform to track equipment as they move throughout the City clearing snow.

UPCOMING AGENDA REVIEW

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

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn to closed session regarding real estate transactions as permitted under Section 21.5(1)(j) of the Code of Iowa.

Moved by Miskimen, seconded by Jensen, 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

Mayor AbouAssaly relinquished the gavel to Mayor Pro Tem Miskimen at 5:15 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Miskimen presided over the meeting.

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

Approved unanimously

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Miskimen adjourned the meeting at 5:38 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