

## **Local Option Sales Tax Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **7/31/13 Meeting**

The July 31st meeting of the Local Option Sales Tax oversight was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Jon Fitch. In attendance were committee members Kevin Carlson, Jon Fitch, Dwight Hogan, Raylin Nevland, John Sklarsky, and Deb Washburn. Deb Callahan was absent. Other attendees were City Manager Lon Pluckhahn, Mayor Bouska, City Engineer Dan Whitlow, Fire Chief Terry Jackson, Parks and Recreation Director Mike Carolan, and Library Director Doug Raber.

The City Manager noted to the group that Cedar Rapids was calling an election for a 10 year extension of the current 5 year LOST. Since it would be a metro area vote, Marion also needed to hold an election. The city council had discussed using the same ballot language as had been proposed in 2012, which committed 70% of the funds to street, sewer, and storm sewer improvements while the remaining 30% went to community projects.

A copy of the draft spending plan from the 2012 election had been distributed to the members to review. The manager explained that several changes had been made, notably a reduction in the amount of LOST that Marion expected to receive, and projects that had already been funded in other ways being removed. Committee members asked the department heads in attendance if there were other projects that should be considered, and Mr. Raber suggested a storefront style minibranch library was being talked about for inclusion in the Functions & Fitness project. Mr. Carolan stated that there were several pieces of property the city had acquired for future parks that could use some development funds, plus potential pool updates and improvements at Thomas Park. Mr. Hogan stated that he felt that fire station #3 should be a priority in the plan.

The committee members discussed the proposed split of funds at 70/30. Mr. Sklarsky asked if the percentages had to be applied year to year (as proposed in the plan), and the City Manager replied that it needed to balance at the end of the use of the LOST funds. He asked if there were any projects not on the list proposed that would lower city operating costs. Mr. Fitch said that he felt the split was appropriate. Mr. Hogan moved to approve of the percentages set by the council, with Washburn seconding. The motion passed with all ayes.

Sklarsky stated that he felt the committee should review current LOST spending as part of the development of a spending plan for the proposed extension. A follow-up meeting

was set for August 14<sup>th</sup> to go into the spending plan in more detail. With no other business for the evening, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 by Chair Fitch.