

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – August 14, 2014

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, August 14, 2014, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Community Development Director Dave Gobin, Finance Director Nancy Lueck, Housing Administrator Dick Yerington, and Assistant Housing Administrator Kaitlyn Love.

The first item on the agenda was a review of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Muscatine County Attorney to provide prosecution services to the City of Muscatine.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding and stated this will provide a great opportunity for a working relationship with the County Attorney's office. He stated the estimated number of hours to be worked is 15 to 20 hours per week. He stated this item will be presented for action at the August 21st City Council meeting.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the Housing Biennial Inspections. Assistant Housing Administrator Kaitlyn Love provided a power point presentation highlighting the cost savings biennial inspections would generate, inspections, the percentage of failed inspections, types of deficiencies and suggestions to increase the passage rate for inspections.

Councilmembers Fitzgerald and Bynum both liked the idea of educating owners and tenants on the inspection process.

Councilmember Natvig stated it was his understanding that electrical concerns are considered life threatening and can cause an inspection to fail. He was told he was correct.

Councilmember Rehwaldt had several questions/comments which included scheduling inspections in blocks, electronic data entry, contracted rates, and the combining of rental and housing inspections.

Councilmember Spread asked if this matter would be reviewed during budget discussions, six months, or annually.

Ms. Love reviewed the funding cycle and stated that education programs could be considered as well.

There was discussion concerning the possibility of penalties for failed inspections.

#22917. Councilmember Shihadeh moved to reconsider the Housing Department's request for biennial inspections provided there is an educational component added and a six-month review. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was a City Code update review of Titles 3, 4, 5, and 6.

City Administrator Mandsager gave an overview of the memorandum summarizing the proposed updates. He stated that questions or comments should be emailed to him and those questions will be answered at the September In-Depth meeting.

The final item on the agenda was a presentation on the cemetery steps. Jan Knoll, Paul Carroll, and Nancy Panther reviewed the proposed plan for the steps with a power point presentation. Mr. Carroll stated the project is not going to be done with tax dollars. He stated a challenge for funding has been issued to the community and that \$2,500 has been raised to date with a potential for in-kind contributions. The estimated cost of the proposed replacement of the cemetery steps would be approximately \$102,025 plus any unknown expenses and minus in-kind services.

There was discussion from City Council concerning quotes that have been received, reaching out to city staff for assistance, and the fact that the reconstruction of the steps could be a broad-based effort.

#22918. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator