

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – December 11, 2014

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, December 11, 2014, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Also present were Acting City Administrator Randy Hill, Roadway Maintenance Supervisor Randy Howell, Finance Director Nancy Lueck, Community Development Planning Coordinator Adam Thompson, and Library Director Pam Collins.

Randy Duncan, 2015 Burnside Avenue, stated his street is in really rough shape and in dire need of reconstruction.

Acting City Administrator Randy Hill stated there are numerous items that come into play when determining which streets are reconstructed and which streets are repaired. He stated that some streets only receive minor repairs. He stated another big issue is how much money is available for street reconstruction.

Mr. Duncan asked Councilmembers to drive down Burnside Avenue to see what he is talking about.

The first item on the agenda was a Muscatine pavement management update and a trail report.

Acting City Administrator Randy Hill stated that in September 2003 the city entered into a contract with the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) from Iowa State University. He stated that CTRE hired a firm called Roadware to do a citywide street inventory. He stated the last inventory of Muscatine roadways took place in the spring of this year at a cost of \$5,200. He stated the inventory is all about data storage and quantifying the conditions of the city's roadways.

Mr. Hill stated the purpose of the inventory is to assign a PCI rating (Pavement Condition Index) for every one block segment of city streets. He stated that in 2003 City Council set a goal of achieving and maintaining an average PCI rating of 60.

A video was included as part of the power point presentation. Roadway Maintenance Supervisor Randy Howell stated the city currently has 110 miles of roadways. He stated that currently Cedar Street, Colorado Street, and completed streets in the West Hill Project all have PCI ratings of 100. He then discussed in further detail items included on the video.

Councilmember Shihadeh, speaking in reference to materials used in roadway projects, stated that some streets are paved with asphalt and some with concrete. He asked what the difference in life was between the two.

Mr. Howell stated that asphalt put down over concrete can last up to 20 years. He stated that concrete does have a longer life than asphalt.

Mr. Hill stated that concrete streets do last longer than asphalt but it is important that they be maintained. He said an effective crack sealing maintenance program is necessary.

Councilmember Fitzgerald, speaking in reference to Lucas Street from Houser Street to the bypass, asked what the base was for that portion of the street, and Mr. Howell stated it was a rock base.

Mark Yerington, representing the Muscatine Area Geographic Information Consortium (MAGIC), stated traffic counts are available for all streets in Muscatine.

Mr. Hill, in providing a conclusion to the discussion concerning pavement management, stated that if the data analysis is followed strictly, the city would need to spend \$2.3 million annually for the next five years to attain and maintain the 60 PCI rating.

Mr. Hill stated there is both good and bad news concerning the different factors that affect the PCI rating. He stated that future projects such as West Hill Phase III to be let in March 2015 will result in the reconstruction of numerous segments of city streets. He stated that on the other side of the coin there are major concrete reconstruction projects needed similar to Dawson and Forest Parkway/Long Meadow Lane. These include segments of Logan Street, Fulliam Avenue, and Houser Street from Cedar Street to Grandview Avenue with the priority being the Houser Street Hill. He stated all of these reconstruction projects will be expensive.

Mr. Hill stated the city plans to again contract with CTRE in fiscal year 2016/2017 for a re-inventory of the roadway network and further determine our progress and priorities.

Mr. Hill stated that as always, funding is the driving factor. He stated staff is not seeking or recommending any particular scenario but rather sharing with City Council and the public what the data shows. He stated staff will continue to explore innovative approaches to extend the life of the road surfaces that compliment fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Hill then gave an overview of the Musser Park-Wiggens Road Trail. He stated that present at tonight's meeting are members of the Trail Committee, Leadership Muscatine, and other trail advocates. He also stated that Bill Haag and Jim Edgmond were also present.

Mr. Hill stated this project has been a work in progress since at least 2005 and has required several design iterations and route changes. He stated that most of the route follows the existing public right-of-way minimizing the need for permanent easements.

The power point touched on the following items:

- The corridor consists of 9 ½ miles of new trail construction and "Share the Road" sections.
- Completes missing segments for the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) and American Discover Trail (ADT).
- When completed will connect Louisa County to the Wild Cat Den State Park (22 miles). Louisa County has received a grant for the design of a three mile trail connecting to Wiggens Road.
- Trail begins near the entrance of Kent-Stein Park.
- The trail is a key component in Muscatine's Blue Zone effort. The city's commitment to trail construction helped enable Muscatine to become certified.

Mr. Hill then highlighted the following current participants and cost reduction efforts:

- Muscatine County ("Share the Road" signs).
- City of Fruitland
- Force Account (in-house work to reduce cost).
- Private Contributions (corporate).
- State Recreational Trail Money (\$381,100).
- Federal Earmark (\$459,635 with city match of \$81,508).
- Land Donation for Easements.
- Concrete vs. Asphalt (Concrete and asphalt contractors will be bidding on the project).
- MPW Easements
- Collection and Drainage Funds

Mr. Hill stated the estimated cost for the trail project is actually \$1.5 million; however, in-house work will reduce the cost to approximately \$1.3 million.

Mr. Hill stated the schedule includes the securing of remaining easements, submitting of final plans to the Iowa Department of Transportation in January 2015, anticipating an April 2015 bid letting, and beginning construction in the summer of 2015.

Mr. Hill stated the completion of the Musser Park-Wiggens Road Trail in 2015 is one of the most anticipated achievements projected in the Blue Zone Blueprint for the coming year. He stated there are many people to thank for their team effort.

He ended by voicing former Mayor Dick O'Brien's comment that "good things are happening in Muscatine".

The next item on the agenda was a CDBG Update and parking impact review.

Before beginning his power point presentation, Community Development Coordinator Adam Thompson, speaking in reference to the current airport contract, stated the city is allowed to apply liquidated damages to the contract beyond the construction date.

Mr. Thompson then stated he anticipates receiving an application for the small business loan program tomorrow and a few next week. He stated the program is taking off very well.

Mr. Thompson then began his CDBG power point presentation. He stated he was present primarily to discuss parking. He stated the first row of Lot 4 will be reconfigured. He pointed out the parking that will be removed to allow for storm water retention cells pointing out it will not be necessary to remove all of the parking.

Councilmember Phillips asked why the parking was being taken out.

Mr. Thompson stated it is necessary to improve water retention cells to assist in water runoff. He stated the proposed retention cells will serve a specific purpose but will also soften the view to Mississippi Drive.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked how this proposal will affect parking for the downtown area.

Finance Director Nancy Lueck stated that right now there are quite a few unused leased spots. She stated she does not feel it will impact parking availability. She stated the handicapped parking stalls will not be lost and there could still be some three hour free parking spaces available.

There was discussion concerning water flow and the location of the handicap parking areas.

Mr. Thompson stated he has gotten verbal commitments from property owners concerning the electrical work and is now seeking written commitments which are anticipated to be received by January 23, 2015. He stated staff plans to go out for bids in early March 2015 and begin construction at the end of that month. He stated the anticipated closeout of the project is December 2015.

The presentation ended with the discussion concerning parking ramps in the downtown area.

The final item on the agenda was a review of changes at the library. Library Director Pam Collins provided a power point presentation. Ms. Collins stated the first slide represents all of the households in Muscatine where someone holds a current library card. She stated the second slide focuses on Muscatine County and shows that the more populated areas are full of Musser Public Library card holders.

She provided a recap of major changes that have taken place at the library since 2008. She stated that three major Lean events have taken place and were all very successful.

Ms. Collins ended by saying that changes at the library will continue to accelerate with three goals in mind: (1) Provide the community with the materials and services they desire, (2) keep cost down; and (3) continue to contribute to the growth of the economy and the growth of our families and children.

Under comments, Mayor Hopkins stated the second week of the “Two Weeks of Love” program ends tomorrow.

#23036. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:33 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Randy Hill, Acting City Administrator