

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – January 15, 2015

Mayor Hopkins called the City Council meeting for Thursday, January 15, 2015, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Phillips.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#22880. Councilmember Bynum, seconded by Councilmember Natvig, moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Regular City Council minutes of January 8, 2015
- Second reading for a new Class “C” Liquor License for Delta Waterfowl Foundation, 3200 Lucas Street – Delta Waterfowl Foundation (pending inspections and insurance); second reading for a new Class “B” Beer Permit for Contrary Brewing Co., 411 West Mississippi Drive – Contrary Brewing LLC (pending inspections and insurance); and second reading for a new Class “B” Wine Permit, Class “C” Beer Permit and Sunday Sales for GM Mini Mart, 2307 Lucas Street – Nanak Express LLC (pending inspections)
- Filing of Communications A-D
- Bills for Approval totaling \$656,628.25

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#22881. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the resolution be adopted approving the Finley’s Subdivision. Seconded by Councilmember Rehwaldt. All ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Phillips. Motion carried.

#22882. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the resolution be adopted setting a public hearing for the West Hill Area Sanitary and Storm Sewer Separation Project – Phase III. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Phillips. Motion carried.

#22883. Councilmember Phillips moved to approve the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Consent Order for the Muscatine County Landfill. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

#22884. Councilmember Bynum moved to approve the purchase of a 2015 GMC pickup truck from Krieger Motor Company in the amount of \$19,851.17. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

#22885. Councilmember Natvig moved to approve the purchase of a tractor from Kunau Implement of DeWitt, Iowa, in the amount of \$33,297.70 and a right-of-way arm mower from Diamond Mowers of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in the amount of \$17,712. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

There was discussion concerning the tractor brands and miles that are mowed each week. Council was told that Parks staff mows approximately 10 miles per week.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#22886. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the request from the Fire Department to submit an application for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips.

Councilmember Natvig asked for a description of the grant program for the public's benefit.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated SAFER grant funds have in the past required city matching funds. He stated that is not case in this current grant application request. He stated the wages and benefits of the four firefighters would be 100% funded for a two-year period. He pointed out overtime is not included. He stated that at the end of the two-year time period, there is no commitment to keep the firefighters on. He stated that if an opening does occur, they can certainly apply for the position.

City Administrator Mandsager stated staff would like to get the application submitted as soon as possible due to a short turnaround period.

Councilmember Rehwaldt asked if the city is required to hire four firefighters as part of this program.

City Administrator Mandsager answered no but then explained the benefits of hiring four firefighters. He stated staff feels the application will be more successful if the city stays with the recommended hiring of four firefighters for the program.

Councilmember Rehwaldt stated he does not see the need to hire four new firefighters.

Fire Chief Jerry Ewers stated the wages and benefits for the firefighters will be covered by the SAFER grant funds.

There was discussion concerning the staff needed to cover ambulance calls.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked who would pay for the required turnout gear.

Chief Ewers stated the grant will cover wages and benefits but will not cover hiring expenses. He stated the department has the funding available to purchase the turnout gear and pay other entry level costs.

Councilmember Rehwaldt asked if the grant would cover worker's compensation costs.

Chief Ewers stated it will cover everything that would be part of the payroll expenses. He stated that worker's compensation is covered by the pension.

Councilmember Natvig stated at the end of the four years, information will be available to fully evaluate the needs of the Fire Department.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated the hiring of the firefighters will also help in determining how to deal with overtime costs.

Councilmember Rehwaldt asked if the application could be split into two separate applications, one for four fighters and one for two firefighters.

Chief Ewers stated that only one application can be submitted.

There was further information concerning the grant application.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#22887. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the request from the Housing Department to submit a grant application to the United Way for the After School Program. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that Community Development Director David Gobin will be giving a power point presentation that will focus on his department's proposed changes to the rental inspection fees program. He stated that presenting this information now will give City Council time to digest it prior to the budget process.

Mr. Gobin read the verbiage under the current City Code concerning the registration of residential rental properties with the City of Muscatine (8-10-1) and inspection fees (8-10-2). He pointed out that Section 8 properties are exempt from the inspection fees.

Mr. Gobin then read the list of the following suggested City Code changes:

- License and register each unit annually
- Submit signed self-inspections between physical inspections
- License registration includes inspections (self and physical)
- License replaces the Certificate of Structural Compliance
- New Code allows for future additional assistance for compliance and provides property owners the access to do background checks, assesses nuisance abatements for excessive city services, increases fees and fines for non-compliance, and allows the city to revoke licenses.

Mr. Gobin then reviewed the proposed fee schedule, market area comparisons, provided a summarization of the department's proposed plan, and outlined what the department felt would be benefits to the rental property owners.

There was discussion concerning the proposed changes to the city's current rental inspection fees program.

Under comments, Councilmember Natvig welcomed the Leadership Muscatine group.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the city's new website will be going live on January 20, 2015 and will be much more user friendly.

Mayor Hopkins read the following notice from the Muscatine County Joint Communications Center:

"The Muscatine County Joint Communications Center will be doing a phone system upgrade on Tuesday, January 20th, between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. The phone system upgrade is needed for the 911 system upgrade. The phone numbers affected include 563-263-9922, Police Department; 563-263-6055, Muscatine County Sheriff's Office; and 563-263-9233, Muscatine Fire Department. We are asking the public to please call 911 during this one-hour timeframe for non-emergency calls."

Mayor Hopkins then asked those present as part of the Leadership Muscatine group to introduce themselves. There were participants from the Vision Center PC, Muscatine Power & Water, GPC, Monsanto, Stanley Consultants, the HON Company, and the Kent Corporation.

#22888. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator