

CITY OF MUSCATINE  
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – July 9, 2015

Mayor Hopkins called the City Council meeting for Thursday, July 9, 2015, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips and Spread.

The first item on the agenda was a request authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with Blue Zones LLC for peer review oversight and the public engagement contract on the Mississippi Drive Corridor Project.

Acting City Administrator Randy Hill explained the benefit of using a national expert, namely Dan Burden, as an active participant throughout the entire reconstruction process - from public meetings to consultation on the design. Hill cited Mr. Burden's involvement on the Cedar Street Reconstruction project especially at the Cedar and Logan intersection. The importance of "connectivity" was cited as well. Because of Blue Zones LLC's national experience their participation reflects a City commitment to reconstruct Mississippi Drive using best practices.

#23068. Councilmember Bynum moved to approve the Agreements with Blue Zones LLC. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. Six ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. One nay: Councilmember Fitzgerald.

The next item on the agenda was a request to designate E. 9th Street between Mulberry Avenue and Cedar Street a One-Way Street.

Acting Administrator Hill gave a brief introduction and summation of the issue. The request was from the Muscatine School District to the Muscatine City Council to make the changes on E. 9th Street primarily for safety purposes. Efficiency was also cited. Considerable discussion occurred. Councilmember Fitzgerald inquired as to the status of the Joseph and Autumn Harris request for additional off-street parking at 819 Cedar Street. The Harris family had been offered additional off-street parking spaces by the School District. However, the Harris' did not feel the offer was adequate. They cited how long they have lived at that particular location; the loss of on-street parking if E. 9th was to become a one-way; the need for off-street parking for their babysitter and visitors; and the hazards of turning left onto Cedar from E. 9th because of on-street parking on Cedar. Councilmember Spread stated that on-street parking is public and not guaranteed for any resident. Councilmember Natvig agreed.

#23069. Councilmember Phillips moved to approve changing E. 9th between Mulberry Avenue and Cedar Street to a one-way street. Seconded Councilmember Rehwaldt. Five ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Natvig, Shihadeh, Phillips, and Spread. Two nays: Councilmembers Fitzgerald and Bynum. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the Musser to Wiggins Road (Deep Lakes Park) Trail Route.

Acting Administrator Hill gave a brief introduction of the project and then introduced City Engineer Jim Edgmond. Mr. Edgmond presented an informative power point presentation showing a comprehensive view of the entire trail network and then breaking it down into six (6) separate sections. The 4.55 mile trail is complimented with 8.25 miles of "Share the Road" trail. The parameters of the trail are from Kent-Stein Park to Deep Lakes Park with a loop that takes the trail into Fruitland and ultimately to Louisa County. The trail includes significant cooperation from Muscatine County and Muscatine Power and Water. It is a

component of the current CAT Grant application and a segment of the national Mississippi River Trail route.

The construction of the trail is scheduled for 2016. Funding includes a Federal Earmark, State Recreational Trail Funds, and private contributions. Cost saving efforts have been realized by using City forces to construct portions of the trail and securing easements from MPW, the County and private property owners. Questions were asked about the route, surface material, maintenance and distance.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. City Planner Andrew Fangman used a power point to show City Council the draft version and maps for the plan. The Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan is a Blue zones blueprint item. Mr. Fangman was asked about use of sidewalks for cyclists and if the master plan is on the city's website. The Plan will go to the Planning Commission for review and adoption.

The final item on the agenda was a review of the Zoning Code - specifically signs. Again, City Planner Andrew Fangman provided a power point presentation to illustrate the update. The Sign Ordinance will be updated to reflect new changes. Mr. Fangman was asked about temporary signs and whether the City should require individuals to get permits for their use. He indicated this would be a consideration.

Under comments, Councilmember Rehwaldt reminded the public of a coffee hosted by the Zoo Garden Group on Saturday, July 11, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Weed Park.

Councilmember Natvig encouraged the public to attend the Bicycle Exhibit at the Art Center during July.

#23070. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:09 p.m. A collective second was offered by the remaining council members. All ayes; motion carried.

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Randy Hill, Acting City Clerk