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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 18, 2017**

## **COUNCIL RECEIVES POSITIVE UPDATE ON MISSISSIPPI DRIVE**

*City, contractor agree that work from Sycamore to Broadway will be done this year*

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – The Muscatine City Council received some positive news concerning the Mississippi Drive Reconstruction Project Thursday night as City Engineer Jim Edgmond provided an update during the regular council meeting.

“We agree with the contractor’s assessment that with any break at all in the weather, we will be complete to Broadway before we ‘shut down’ for winter,” Edgmond said. “The last three weeks of this contract have been really, really good and we have made super progress.”

The underground contractor has requested to continue underground utilities into stage B1 (Pine to Broadway) indicating that they have the ability to complete this by approximately Thanksgiving.

If that can be accomplished, Edmond said, the City would consider allowing the underground contractor to work through the winter on the section from Sycamore to Mulberry.

The underground work for Phase I (Sycamore to Pine) is within just a few days of being complete. Edgmond reported that the contractor has worked out an agreement with the contractor building the new hotel to allow for the final storm sewer work on Chestnut Street.

“Our plan is to move forward with utility work now and through the winter as much as possible,” Gregg Mandsanger, City Administrator, said. “We would like to get as much done underground

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as possible before spring with the possibility of flooding and other issues that happen in the spring.”

The plan is to have the underground contractor continue to work from Pine to Broadway (Phase II) while the paving contractor finishes up Phase I (Sycamore to Pine) with the paving contractor following the underground contractor downstream towards Broadway through the fall.

“If they get everything paved and tied in up to Broadway in the downstream end of the project, we would seriously consider allowing them to do some underground work heading the other way (Sycamore to Mulberry),” Edgmond said.

Winter may not be the ideal time for construction work but the more they can accomplish, especially in the Sycamore to Mulberry area, before spring the better prepared the City and the contractor will be for whatever happens in the spring.

The only section of Phase I that may be delayed now is the rebuilding of Chestnut Street due to construction work on the new hotel. The City will meet with the hotel contractor to negotiate a timetable to complete Chestnut Street before the end of the 2017 construction season. The project team from the City of Muscatine is confident that the entire Phase I section will be completed by October 13, 2017, if weather conditions are favorable.

In other construction updates:

### **West Hill Sewer Separation Project**

The focus of the contractor for the West Hill Sewer Separation Project is up around 4th Street Park. The contractor is working on the sanitary sewer services on the west side of 4th Street

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Park at 4th & Broadway and has made it up to Cherry Street. The intersection of Cherry and West 4th is now closed.

The paving contractor is finishing the concrete work at the West 4th and Locust Street intersection with grading occurring on Broadway between the #3 and #4 alleys on the east side of the park. Broadway between the #3 and #4 alleys will be paved in the near future.

Once the sewer contractor finishes the sewer work up to Cherry and another short section on Cherry Lane they will move down to East 5th to do their sanitary sewer replacement work between Cedar Street and Iowa Avenue.

East 5th Street was closed on Friday, Aug. 18, at the intersection with Cedar as Muscatine Power & Water (MPW) replaced the fire hydrant there.

### **Kent Stein to Deep Lakes Park Trail**

HMA has finished paving in the Deep Lakes Park area and the contractor continues to place millings on Stewart Road and has rolled the subbase. As work on that subbase is completed, the contractor will move to Houser Street to place millings. There has also been some removal of downed trees along the Hahn property which will continue as trucks become available.

City officials ask that people remain off the entirety of the trail as work continues. There is still some shoulder work to do on all sections of the four-mile long trail.

### **Cleveland Street Reconstruction Project**

All American Concrete is well underway on the Cleveland Street Reconstruction Project with the first phase, from Park Avenue to just east of the west entrance to McDonald's on Cleveland

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Street, being graded after the old pavement was removed Tuesday and Wednesday. Once the first section is completed, the second section, from 2nd Avenue to just west of Coventry Lane, will begin.

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