

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – February 8, 2018

Mayor Diana Broderson called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, February 8, 2018, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Malcolm, Fitzgerald, Brackett, Saucedo, Harvey, Brockert, and Spread.

#23253 Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve a High Strength Waste Supplemental Agreement No. 3 between the City of Muscatine and Stanley Consultants. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes – Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Shelly Maharry from the Muscatine China Initiatives Committee. Ms. Maharry came forward to discuss the upcoming visit by the Zhejiang Chinese Symphony Orchestra. She stated that it is a team effort to pull together such an event and appreciates all those that have opened their homes and helped organize this for the Orchestra members. She stated this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for them to be able to come stay in our homes and experience our culture. The concert will be performed on February 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Middle School Auditorium. Ms. Maharry encouraged all to attend.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation regarding mini roundabouts. Public Works Director, Brian Stineman started by stating that the Public Works Dept receives many calls and complaints regarding the intersection of Houser Street and Fulliam Street. He stated that Muscatine had been approved for a grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation to transform this intersection into a mini roundabout. Mr. Stineman then introduced Civil Engineer Greg Schaapveld from Shive Hattery Architectual Engineering to share more information regarding the mini roundabout.

Mr. Schaapveld stated that this would be a mini roundabout not a traffic circle. A traffic circle would have a raised usually landscaped center island, and the mini roundabout would have a slightly raised center island that would be mountable by larger vehicles not being able to make the full turn.

Mr. Schaapveld discussed the design and how the sidewalks and high-power utility poles would not be affected by the building of the mini roundabout. He stated the mini roundabout would fit into the current right of way area.

There were questions and concerns from City Council regarding the two driveways that would be affected by this change stating that they would have to make a right in and right out turn from their drives.

Several options were discussed such as: making the island flat rather than raised so they could drive easily over them or offering to put a hammerhead turn around in the drives for these residents.

There were questions and concerns from City Council regarding the similar mini roundabout placed in Coralville.

Mr Schaapveld stated that the statistics for the two were very similar in numbers and he feels that this is the best option for this intersection.

Mr. Schaapveld stated the ideal location for mini roundabouts would include: intersections with high delays but do not meet signal warrants, have a minimum of 10% side street volume, have less than 1600 cars per hour and have speeds less than 35 miles per hour. This intersection meets all of this criterion.

There were questions and concerns from City Council regarding the safety of drivers using the roundabouts.

Mr. Schaapveld stated that in a regular four-way intersection there are 32 conflict points between vehicles, but with a mini roundabout you lower that to only 8 conflict points making it less likely for an accident to happen. He also stated that accidents at a mini roundabout would be less serious as you would not have T-bone crashes.

Mr Schaapveld closed by stating that the money would be available to the city on July 1, 2018 and typically needs to be spent within two years however the city could ask for an extension if needed. The money would have to be used for this purpose and could not be repurposed.

There was discussion between City Council members regarding other options that could be explored for this intersection and how they would be enforced.

Councilmember Fitzgerald moved for a show of councilmembers that would be willing to move forward with the possibility of the roundabout. It was concluded that the city would move forward if the home owners affected would be offered the option of a hammerhead drive.

Under comments: Councilmember Spread stated that he had received positive feedback from citizens regarding the roundabout.

Councilmember Harvey stated that he had been asked if something could be done regarding the large trucks exhaust braking when they come across the Norbert Becky Bridge. The local residents are complaining of the noise this creates.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated that he would talk to the Department of Transportation and Jeff Armstrong regarding this to see what could be done.

Councilmember Malcolm stated he would like the city to consider a crosswalk at the corner of 3rd and Chestnut Streets that would include a push button light to stop traffic when individuals needed to cross.

Public Works director Brian Stineman stated he would put this on the agenda for the next safety meeting and would have an answer for Mr. Malcolm following that meeting.

Councilmember Saucedo reminded everyone of the snow emergency issued and to be careful on the roads.

Councilmember Brockert stated that if you don't have to go out please stay home.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that the snow emergency was being handled differently this time to try and give individuals a little more time to be able to move their vehicles for snow removal.

Mayor Broderson stated that Republic Services that collects the Muscatine recycling had a truck break down and they would be running a day behind schedule.

Mayor Broderson reminded citizens that the next Coffee with the Mayor would be held Feb 24th, 2018 at Happy Joes.

Mayor Broderson stated she had received complaints about the downtown snow being piled between the road and the sidewalks making it difficult for individuals to get to the sidewalks.

Public Works Director Brian Stineman stated that the snow is put there temporarily until the night when the snow removal trucks can get in to pick it up and move it.

Councilmember Harvey moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator