

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – May 10, 2018

Mayor Broderson called the City Council meeting for Thursday, May 10, 2018, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Spread, Harvey, Brockert, Saucedo, Brackett, Fitzgerald and Malcolm.

Mayor Diana Broderson thanked the Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra for their performance in Muscatine and signed a proclamation in recognition of their performance.

#24260 Councilmember Spread moved to adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for May 31st, 2018 concerning amendment #2 to the City Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Seconded by Councilmember Harvey.

Councilmember Malcolm questioned if there were changes to this resolution as it had been on the prior week agenda.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated the only change was adding that the Muscatine Journal failed to publish the notice on required date.

Vote – All ayes: Councilmembers Spread, Harvey, Brockert, Saucedo, Brackett, Fitzgerald and Malcolm. Motion Carried.

The next item on the agenda was an update from Nancy Snaadt, Account Manager for Alliant Energy. Ms. Snaadt stated they are located at 215 Oak Street and currently have 16 employees reporting out of this location.

Ms. Snaadt stated Alliant Energy supports our community through the Alliant Energy Foundation and through Corporate Contributions. She stated this past year grants were awarded to Family Resources, Muscatine County Sheriff's Department, Halloween at the Y, Muscatine Charities as well as others. Ms. Snaadt stated she wanted citizens to know that Alliant Energy is a good resource to reach out to for support of local events.

Ms. Snaadt discussed how Alliant Energy Supports the Economic Development of Muscatine. She stated that Alliant Energy has invested approximately \$1,000,000 in the natural gas infrastructure in Muscatine over the past twenty-four months. She states Alliant is a significant property tax payer for Muscatine.

Ms. Snaadt stated that part of her job is trying to get customers to be energy efficient. Ms. Snaadt complimented the Public Works Department for their submission of rebates this year for various energy efficient upgrades. She then stated that Alliant had paid out 676 rebates to customers over the past year totaling \$233,756.

Ms. Snaadt then discussed the tree planting program and stated that Muscatine received two grants this year, 108 trees were planted on Colorado and 34 trees were planted at the Muscatine Arboretum.

Next on the Agenda City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated the City of Muscatine would like to declare the old library as surplus property and begin the bid process to get it back on the tax rolls. He stated that the assessed property value according to MAGIC was 1.427 Million. He stated that if the bid process was not successful we could come back to council with other options.

There were questions from City Council regarding the zoning of property and if there were other needs within the City that the building could be used for, that were answered by City Administrator Gregg Mandsager.

There was a consensus among council to move forward with declaring the building as surplus property.

Next on the agenda was an update by Michael Maharry on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Maharry discussed how the 2017 weather had affected many of the historic buildings in Muscatine and that many have had new roofs as well as other work performed on them.

Mr. Maharry stated the Historic Preservation Commission is working to get the area around Weed Park named as a Historic District and placed on the National Register. Mr. Maharry discussed the tax credits that are available to buildings/houses that are listed on the Historic Register and stated that two downtown buildings are currently utilizing these tax credits.

Mr. Maharry stated the commission is working on an app that would allow people to select a property and be able to learn the history of the building.

Mr. Maharry then discussed the possibility of preparing an application to have the McKee Button Factory listed on the registry, and options that have been discussed for uses of that building in the future.

Public Works Director Brian Stineman addressed council with an update on Whicher Street. He stated that the City was proposing reopening Whicher street to be able to have a detour route for traffic during the 8th Street closure of the West Hill Sewer Separation Project. Mr. Stineman stated that on April 24th a meeting was held with the public regarding the reopening of Whicher Street. He stated the residents were opposed and stated the following reasons:

- Whicher Street would become a racetrack again
- Landfill Stability
- Children playing in area
- Stormwater
- Traffic Control

Mr. Stineman stated the input from staff included:

- Having a closed road has no value to the public
- It is the best detour option
- Better access for public safety vehicles
- Why provide a Private Park to residents

Mr. Stineman stated the some options available at this point are to evaluate and draft a plan of reopening Whicher Street, leave the street as it is, or declare the right of way area as surplus and sell to adjacent property owners.

Councilmember Harvey asked when City Council would need to make a decision in order for the construction to be completed in time for the 8th street closure.

Mr. Stineman stated one year.

Councilmember Brockert asked what Plan B and Plan C were if Whicher Street was not reopened.

Mr. Stineman stated there were other routes they could use but both would be more out of the way for residents to drive. He also stated at the time that 8th Street would be closed the construction on Mississippi Drive would be complete and there would not be detour traffic using 8th Street.

Ms. Brockert asked if there were any street issues that would need to be addressed if the other routes were to be used as detours.

Mr. Stineman stated no issues outside of the ordinary and the South route would all be new roads.

Councilmember Malcolm stated that at the meeting the Whicher Street residents brought up issues with the street that needed to be addressed by Public Works.

Mr. Stineman stated that being a dead-end street would put it lower on the priority list than if were a through street.

Councilmember Harvey asked how the emergency vehicles manage the dead-end street.

Mr. Stineman stated the trash is picked up in the alleys, they snow plays only plow where they are able to get to and as the Police Chief and Fire Chief would have to answer for their vehicles.

Councilmember Malcolm stated the residents mentioned orange water running in the creek and were concerned with what it was.

City Engineer Jim Edgmond came forward to state that part of that area is a landfill area and when the run off water goes through the landfill it picks up rust from the debris making the water orange.

Mr. Stineman then gave a presentation on how street maintenance is prioritized. He stated he uses a matrix that allows points for each identified problem based on the future plans for the road, the ease of performing the construction, amount of traffic affected, the overall condition of pavement, assessment by City staff, remaining life of pavement and Cost of Construction. He stated then the streets with higher points are put at the top of the list to be repaired.

Mr. Stineman stated that this year instead of focusing on asphalt resurfacing of streets public works would focus on full depth concrete repair to try and preserve the life of the streets and get more out of the city's money. He stated he would like to rotate concrete streets and asphalt streets yearly.

Councilmember Saucedo asked how they would prioritize the roads that the street sealer would be used on.

Mr. Stineman said he would like to start sealing cracks in the newest streets first in order to preserve those streets as long as possible, then work on the older streets.

Under Communication:

Councilmember Spread stated it was nice to see traffic moving downtown and residents out enjoying the things going on in Muscatine over the past week.

Councilmember Brockert stated the 4th Ward Meeting will be held on the 14th at Fire Station #2.

Councilmember Bracket stated that the Soap Box Derby Registration is open and available online.

Mayor Broderson stated Coffee with the Mayor would be held at 9:00 a.m. Saturday at the top of the Greenwood Cemetery stairs, followed by the grand opening of the steps.

Mayor Broderson reminded the public of the upcoming Follow the Music celebration in honor of Dick and MaryJo Stanley on May 20th, 2018.

Mayor Broderson thanked all the public servants and stated that we couldn't make it without all the hard work they do.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator