

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. –March 7, 2019

Mayor Diana Broderson called the City Council meeting for Thursday, March 7, 2019, to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Councilmembers Spread, Harvey, Brockert, Saucedo, Brackett, Fitzgerald and Malcolm.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Broderson swore in new firefighter Zach Diewold. Mr. Diewold was congratulated and welcomed by City Council and Staff.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Harvey, Seconded by Councilmember Saucedo moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Item 6 A: Approval of City Council Minutes
- Items 8 A-E: Petitions and Communication
- Item 9 A: From the Mayor
- Items 12 A-B: Receive and File
- Bills for Approval totaling \$3,061,076.76

Vote – 7 ayes, motion carried.

Public Hearing

A. Mayor Broderson stated this public hearing concerns the Houser Street and Fulliam Street Roundabout.

Robert Bromwell, 2414 Lucas Street, Came forward to share his concerns regarding the proposed roundabout. Mr. Bromwell stated that there were 60 citizens at the first meeting regarding the roundabout and all were against it. He stated he feels the city does not listen to the citizens and although they are opposed the city will move forward with the proposed roundabout.

Roger Roth, Clark House, came to share his concerns with the safety issues of the proposed roundabout in regards to two wheeled vehicles.

Jeff Sorensen, 620 Wier Street, stated he is favor of the proposed roundabout and feels that with the new development being developed in that area something needs to be done to control the traffic at that intersection.

Brittney Stewart, 610 Houser Street, stated she recently purchased a home at that intersection and feels that the proposed roundabout will prevent her from building a two car garage that would increase the value of her property. She stated concerns of issues trying to resell her house in the future due to the roundabout.

Councilmember Brockert moved the public hearing to be closed, seconded by

Councilmember Saucedo.

Vote – All Ayes; motion carried

- B. Mayor Broderson stated this public hearing concerns Amendment #1 to the 2018/2019 City Budget.

There were no oral or written petitions for or against the proposed amendment.

Councilmember Brockert moved the public hearing to be closed, seconded by Councilmember Harvey.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried

- C. Mayor Broderson stated this public hearing concerns adoption of budget and certification of taxes for fiscal year 2019/2020.

There were no oral or written petitions for against the proposed budget.

Councilmember Brackett moved the public hearing to be closed, seconded by Councilmember Harvey.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

At this time Finance Director Nancy Lueck came forward to give a presentation on the 2019/2020 budget summary. Ms. Lueck explained where the city money comes from and how the funds are used. She stated that the property tax rate for the City of Muscatine has not increased for the last eight years and is at \$15.67/\$1000 valuation. Ms. Lueck explained how property taxes were decided and where the money goes and discussed in greater detail the General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and Capital Project Fund summaries. Ms. Lueck concluded by stating that the budget is based on known factors at the time the public hearing was and discussed several concerns for the upcoming year and beyond.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager thanked City Staff and City Council for all working together to create the 2019/2020 budget.

From the Mayor

Mayor Broderson read and signed a proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Paula LeVasser, president of the Muscatine County Child Abuse Prevention Council, came to speak regarding the impact on children affected by Child Abuse. Ms. LeVasser Stated that April 5th was Blue out day in support of children in our community. Ms. LeVasser also passed out painted rocks to all council members to hide in our community.

Item 11A

Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0050, approving the plans, specifications, form of contract, cost estimates and establishing a bid opening date for the

Hoser/Fulliam Roundabout. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

Councilmember Brockert stated she had visited a roundabout in Coralville that Shive-Hattery stated to be similar. Ms. Brockert stated the area was rural and housing density not equivalent to Muscatine.

Councilmember Brockert stated that with Crossroads and the group homes nearby it is a safety concern for her. She also stated she would not want to purchase a property in that area because of the roundabout.

Councilmember Malcolm stated he walked the area in question to determine how it would affect the homeowners on the four corners. He stated on paper it looks good but feels that it will negatively affect the homeowners.

Councilmember Saucedo stated when looking at the size overlay, this roundabout is much smaller than the Cedar Street Roundabout. He stated that children having to cross the street at this intersection with no stop signs or stop lights would be unsafe. Mr. Saucedo stated that the money having to be spent on reconstruction for the homeowners could be spend on traffic lights at the intersection. He also stated that this could be a temporary fix but with the new homes going in the City needs to look farther into the future.

Councilmember Brackett stated that if the motion is not passed regarding the roundabout that the street repairs included in the plan would not be done. He stated there is no money in the budget this year for the repairs needed. He also stated that there were going to be changes with the school traffic with the pending school driveway changes.

Public Works Director Brian Stineman stated to council this came to staff because of numerous complaint calls received regarding this intersection. He stated staff did their best to come up with a solution and a way to pay for the project. This qualified for the TSIP Grant that would have paid for the majority of the project. He stated he is disappointed in what he is hearing from Council but that the decision is up to them.

Andrew Anderson, 217 West 4th, stated that roundabouts don't always work but they do in many locations. He stated that this roundabout would be the best solution for this intersection especially with the new houses being built in the area. He stated that the calming affect of the roundabout will increase property values.

Councilmember Malcolm asked what the cost would be for traffic lights at that intersection.

City Engineer Jim Edmond stated it would be in the area of \$500,000.

Mayor Broderson asked if there was any way we could apply for grants for traffic lights.

Mr. Edmond stated that because the studies show that area does not meet any traffic signal warrants.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated that before the Cedar Street roundabout he was very opposed but now he has become a believer in roundabouts. He states as people learn to use them they work well.

Councilmember Spread stated the professionals that design road ways have come up with this plan and he believes they know what is best. He also stated from his personal experience this will not decrease property values.

City Engineer Edmond stated that the smaller size and slower traffic will make the roundabout flow smoothly and because of the slower speeds it is safer for the pedestrian traffic.

Councilmember Harvey stated he feels the roundabout is too small. He stated his concern is that it will be used as an uncontrolled four way intersection.

Max Kauffman, 1609 Foster, stated the roundabout at Cedar and Logan was good but that the Houser/Fulliam roundabout would be unsafe for children. He then stated in his opinion the roundabout would decrease property value.

Vote – 2 Ayes: Fitzgerald, Spread
5 Nays: Harvey, Brockert, Saucedo, Brackett, Malcolm
Motion Failed

Item 11B

Councilmember Brockert, moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0048, approving amendment #1 to the 2018/2019 City Budget. Seconded by Councilmember Saucedo.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11C

Councilmember Spread, moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0049, approving the budget and certification of taxes for fiscal year 2019/2020. Seconded by Councilmember Brockert.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11D

Councilmember Brackett moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0051, accepting completed work on Kent Stein Park to Deep lakes Park Trail Project. Seconded by Councilmember Harvey.

There were questions from City Council concerning the length of time from finish of project to closing that were answered by City Engineer Jim Edgmond.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried

Item 11E

Councilmember Harvey moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0052, setting a public hearing on increasing the Utility Franchise Fee. Seconded by Councilmember Saucedo.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11F

Councilmember Spread moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0053, approving and adopting a revenue purpose statement for the use of expenditures of revenues from Natural Gas Franchise Fee. Seconded by Councilmember Harvey.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated the next step in the process would be the adoption of the ordinance and asked if it could be brought back to City Council on First and Final Reading. There was consent among council.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11G

Councilmember Brockert moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0054, setting a public hearing for the 2020 Annual Plan and Amendments to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan and the Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11H

Councilmember Brackett moved to adopt resolution #2019-0055, approving the amended development agreement with TIF Oak Park, Inc. Seconded by Councilmember Brockert.

There were questions from City Council regarding the financial liabilities this would cost the city that were answered by City Administrator Gregg Mandsager.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried

Item 11I

Councilmember Brackett moved to approve request #2019-0056, for the approval of a Letter of Understanding with Bohnsack & Frommelt LLP for the FY 2018-2019 Audit. Seconded by Councilmember Malcolm.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11J

Councilmember Brackett moved to approve request #2019-0057, for the issuance of a purchase order in the amount of \$76,458.00 to Zimmer and Francescon for the rebuild of Papoose #3 Pump and purchase of new impeller. Seconded by Councilmember Brockert.

There were questions from City Council regarding the use of Pumps 2 and 3 that were addressed by Water Pollution Control Plant Director Jon Koch.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11K

Councilmember Harvey moved to approve request # 2019-0058, for the issuance of a purchase order in the amount of \$6,935.77 to Midland Scientific, for the purchase of a new VWR Peltier Biochemical Oxygen Demand Incubator. Seconded by Councilmember Brockert.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Communication-Council Members

Councilmember Malcolm thanked the Fire and Police departments for their performance during the recent fire event in Muscatine. He stated they all represented our city very well.

Councilmember Brockert also thanked the Fire and Police and asked the community continue to pray for the families involved as well as the firefighters.

Councilmember Saucedo also thanked the Fire and Police.

Councilmember Saucedo asked for an update from Public Works on the pothole repairs.

Public Works Director Brian Stineman stated that not much work had been done the last week due to the cold weather. He stated warmer temps next week should allow the crews to be out working again. Mr. Stineman encouraged citizens to let them know where potholes were that needed attention. Mr. Stineman also commented on new equipment that had been approved that would allow work to be done during the colder months.

Councilmember Brackett stated he had received comments on citizens driving unsafely near work zones and encouraged the community to slow down, get off phones and be aware of the crews working on the streets.

Public Works Director Stineman thanked his employees for all their hard work during the winter months and the time they have had to put in to keep the roads drivable.

Councilmember Brackett asked if there was a flood update available.

Public Works Director Stineman stated that we should expect some flooding in April but would have to get more information on that to the Council members when he had the data.

City Administrator Mandsager thanked City Staff and Council for the time and effort put into the 2019/2020 budget.

Mayor Broderson thanked everyone for participating in celebrating Alexander Clark Day.

Mayor Broderson reminded citizens of April 5, being blue out day for Child abuse awareness.

Mayor Broderson stated that on April 15 there would be a youth job fair from 3-6 at Muscatine High School.

Councilmember Brackett moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Mayor Diana Broderson

City Administrator, Gregg Mandsager