

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – June 9, 2011

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, June 9, 2011, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Community Development Director Steve Boka, City Engineer Jon Lutz, Fire Captain June Anne Gaeta, and City Planner Andrew Fangman.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Dawnese Openshaw concerning the proposed Youth Advisory Commission (YAC). She stated the Youth Affinity Group of the United Way's Let's Talk along with the school district and several area youth are proposing the development of the YAC. She stated the purpose of establishing the YAC is as follows:

- To increase understanding and awareness of issues facing youth in Muscatine.
- To promote communication between youth and adults within the community.
- To develop leadership skills and awareness of social responsibility for youth.
- To show community issues through a youth perspective and to help find solutions.
- To give youth a voice in the community to help make decisions for themselves and their peers.
- To work on projects that will improve Muscatine.
- To provide advice to the City Council on issues affecting youth.
- To promote understanding and awareness of government among youth.
- To encourage participation in community development and city government by youth.

Dale Reyes and several other members of the MuscaTeen Youth Group gave a presentation as well that included a review of the YAC's objectives, its purpose, and its benefits.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked how many members would be in the YAC. He was told there would be approximately 13 to 15 participants ranging from 8th grade to freshmen in college. Councilmember Shihadeh told the members of the youth group present at the meeting they should be proud of themselves because they are role models for the youth of Muscatine.

Councilmember Natvig stated it was good to see so many young people at the meeting. He asked how often the group would meet. He was told it would meet once a month or more as needed.

Councilmember Bynum stated he liked the purpose behind the proposed YAC and felt it was a great idea.

Ms. Openshaw stated her experience with working with the youth has been great. She stated they have such a fresh perspective on issues.

Councilmember LeRette asked if the Commission has a partnership with the school system.

Ms. Openshaw stated the school system is on board with the proposed Commission. She ended by saying she would like to see the city approve the YAC as an official commission for the city.

Councilmember Lange stated he appreciates the work that has gone into creating the YAC.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the Clearview Mobile Home Park sewer.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated the city had recently submitted a CDBG grant application on behalf of CMHP for the installation of a sewer system; however, it was not approved. He stated staff has an alternate plan for City Council to consider which would be the installation of a gravity sewer that will have a larger service area and cost roughly the same (\$800,000).

Community Development Director Steve Boka stated that two CDBG grant applications have been submitted on behalf of CMHP for the installation of a sewer system. He stated both applications were denied. He stated both the city and representatives of CMHP continue to work with the IDNR for an acceptable sewer system. He stated one option is a gravity sewer with no lift station and associated operating costs. He then gave an overview on the area that would benefit from this type of sewer. He stated staff is looking for City Council concurrence before moving ahead further with the design. He stated that the IDNR would support the gravity sewer if City Council gives its concurrence.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked about the pros and cons for this type of sewer system. He was told there would be no need for a lift station which would eliminate operating costs, pumps, and maintenance. In addition it would benefit a larger benefit district.

City Council was told funding would come from the State Revolving Fund and/or the Sewer Depreciation Fund and would be repaid from tie-ins to the system.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked if there was enough density to make the cost for tie-ins reasonable.

Mr. Boka stated the city has two benefit areas at the present time, and the guesstimate for this benefit area is approximately \$90 per acre.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked why the sewer line for University Drive could not be used.

City Engineer Jon Lutz stated that University Drive could not be used due to elevation issues. He stated the new route will follow Mad Creek and serve a larger area, and a portion of the costs will be borne by the developer.

City Council was told that upgrades could take place later, especially around Heinz.

The consensus from City Council was to move forward on this project.

The final item on the agenda was a review of proposed fees associated with open burning without a permit.

City Administrator Mandsager stated it is being proposed by the Fire Department that penalties for not having a burn permit or for illegal burning fall under municipal infractions as presently provided by City Code.

Fire Captain June Anne Gaeta reviewed her memo with City Council concerning the Fire Department's proposed handling of these penalties. She stated the Fire Department will provide a news release and education month following the approval of the proposed penalties.

Captain Gaeta stated that dispatch will have a list of permits that have been issued. He stated that if a complaint is received, dispatch will be able to confirm if the person with the fire pit does have a burn permit.

Under comments, Councilmember Shihadeh stated the Iowa Girls State Soccer Tournament was being held Thursday through Saturday at the Soccer Complex.

#21634. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator