

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – December 12, 2019

Mayor Diana Broderson called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, December 12, 2019, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were: Spread, Harvey, Brockert, Saucedo, Brackett, Malcolm and Fitzgerald. Public Works Director Brian Stineman sat in as Acting City Administrator.

Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve a request for the issuance of a purchase order in the amount of \$22,522.92, to Stew Hansen Dodge for the purchase of a truck for the right of way inspector. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays- 0. Motion carried

Councilmember Saucedo motioned to approve a request to seek independent legal counsel to represent the City of Muscatine for the remaining processes involved in the removal of the City Administrator. Seconded by Councilmember Malcolm.

Councilmember Brackett, Saucedo and Malcolm all stated the law firm should be from outside of Muscatine to avoid biased actions and conflicts of interest.

Councilmember Spread stated he felt the decision for legal counsel should be made by the new City Councilmembers as they would be the ones working with them.

Councilmember Fitzgerald and Harvey stated they had no problem with Brick Gentry Law Firm to handle this situation.

Councilmember Brockert questioned using a different attorney from Brick Gentry because the City already has a contract with that firm.

Councilmember Saucedo amended his motion to approve a request to seek out independent counsel to represent the City of Muscatine for the remaining processes involved in the removal of the City Administrator and for staff to seek out three recommendations for potential future counsel with their rates. Seconded by Councilmember Malcolm.

Vote on Amended motion: Ayes 4, Nays 3 (Spread, Harvey, Fitzgerald)

Vote on Original motion: Ayes 4, Nays 3 (Spread, Harvey, Fitzgerald)

The next item on the agenda was a review contract with Potential Interim City Administrator and possible action. Councilmember Saucedo stated he appreciated the feed back from the Finance Director regarding the costs of hiring an interim City Administrator. Councilmember Saucedo suggested hiring Greg Jenkins for this position, stating he would be a good fit with his experience and his desire to improve Muscatine.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated in the past the City has always used a senior staff member to fill this interim position and feels Jerry Ewers is the right choice and he does not approve spending the money to fill this position when we have capable staff.

Councilmember Harvey shared his concerns with Mr. Jenkins having to make decisions on budget items that he does not understand or have experience in dealing with City budgets.

Councilmember Spread questioned regarding the process being used to hire an Interim City Administrator, and stating that there should have been an interview. He states how can you hire someone that you have never met.

Councilmember Saucedo moved to select Greg Jenkins as interim City Administrator starting Monday Dec 16th, part-time through the end of 2019, and full time starting in January 2020 with Rich Klimes being the Deputy City Administrator. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

There were questions from staff regarding of the motion was proper as proposed.

Vote: Ayes – 4, Nays -3 (Harvey, Spread, Fitzgerald)

Assistant City Engineer Pat Lynch was present to discuss options regarding to the 5-way stop on Park Avenue. Mr. Lynch shared with City Council several options that have been presented as safety improvements on the Park Ave reconstruction for the 5-way stop. City Council discussed the options and issues that could arise from each option. There was a consensus from City Council to move forward with this project.

Councilmember Brackett had questions to staff regarding the leaf pick-up program that were addressed by Public Works Director Brian Stineman.

Councilmember Brackett moved meeting be adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Diana Broderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brian Stineman
Acting City Administrator