

City of Muscatine
In-Depth City Council Minutes
7:00 p.m. – July 09, 2020

This meeting was held electronically due to meeting regulations regarding the spread of COVID-19.

Mayor Broderson called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, July 09, 2020, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were: Brackett, Brockert, Froelich, Gordon, Hopkins, Jindrich and Malcolm.

Item 2 – Resolution Approving the Contract for the new City Administrator as submitted by the City Attorney.

Councilmember Brackett motioned to approve Resolution #2020-0246, approving the contract for the new City Administrator, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins.

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

Item 3 – Request to Approve the Submission of a Request for Application to the Environmental Protection Agency for the Supporting Anaerobic Digestion in Communities (SADIC) Grant.

Councilmember Gordon motioned to approve Request #2020-0247, approving the submission of a Request for Application to the Environmental Protection Agency for the SADIC Grant and authorizing a letter of support from the Council to be submitted with the grant application, seconded by Councilmember Brockert.

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

Councilmember Froelich read a prepared statement concerning the Face Covering Mandate Proclamation of the Mayor. Froelich's statement declared that the process the Mayor utilized for the Proclamation was troublesome as it did not allow the Councilmembers ample time to review the Proclamation before it was leaked to the public so Councilmembers were left in an undesirable position as they were not able to address the situation properly when citizens approached them with questions. Froelich also stated that the citizens must be responsible for their own actions as to whether they wear a face mask or not and that he does not support the Proclamation as it is currently written.

Councilmember Gordon shared that she believes the Proclamation implemented by the Mayor was done in good faith but the normal steps were bypassed when making the decision especially including the Councilmembers. Gordon is in support of rescinding the Proclamation as it is currently written because she believes that it is not enforceable in its current state.

Mayor Broderson stated that she is not prepared to rescind the Proclamation at this time as she is working with local professionals discussing the options for the Proclamation. The Proclamation was not created at a whim and was done in collaboration with health care experts but the process was unfortunate with the Proclamation being leaked to social media which made it very difficult. Broderson affirmed that she was in contact with the City Attorney verifying that the Proclamation is acceptable and the City Attorney still states that the Proclamation is where it needs to be but there may be some enforcement issues. Broderson reminded

everyone that this is a new situation and we need to remain flexible as we learn how to better handle the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilmember Brackett advocated that there was some time given to the Councilmembers to review the Proclamation prior to it being leaked on social media but not much. Brackett shared that he believes there is a misconception about the use of masks, as mask are used to protect others not to protect yourself and the goal is to slow the spread because when COVID-19 was spreading very quickly earlier in the year the higher levels of government shut things down with no other options. Brackett stated that he believes the Proclamation was done in good faith to protect the health of the citizens and the local economy.

Councilmember Jindrich shared that he is opposed to the Proclamation but he does believe the Muscatine citizens need to act accordingly to protect their and others health.

Councilmember Jindrich motioned to direct the Interim City Administrator and incoming City Administrator to not allow or approve any funds or staff time to be spent or utilized following or enforcing the Face Mask Proclamation as issued by the Mayor of the City of Muscatine on July 5, 2020 or any future date unless the Proclamation is consistent with the recommendation of the Governor of Iowa, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins.

Vote: Ayes – 5 (Brockert, Froelich, Gordon, Hopkins and Jindrich), Nays – 2 (Brackett and Malcolm), Motion carried.

Councilmember Brackett commented that with the motion being carried there can now be zero meetings, zero discussions or anything concerning this Proclamation since it would involve staff time unless something new is initiated.

Andrew Fangman, Assistant Community Development, updated the Councilmembers that the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend that the current regulations regarding backyard chickens remain unchanged.

Councilmember Brackett asked for an update on the possible road opening date for the roundabout on 2nd St and Mulberry Ave. Greg Jenkins stated that it will hopefully be opened in the next 10 days barring any further delays. Brackett also suggested that at a future City Council member they discuss the Lake Park Blvd flooding issues further. Councilmember Jindrich voiced that he concurs with Councilmember Brackett in needing to discuss Lake Park Blvd.

Councilmember Gordon motioned for meeting to be adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Diana Broderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Greg Jenkins, Interim City Administrator

