

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
7:00 p.m. – July 16, 2020

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

Mayor Broderson called the City Council meeting for Thursday July 16, 2020, to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Councilmembers Hopkins, Froelich, Malcolm, Gordon, Brockert, Jindrich and Brackett.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Gordon, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Items 6 A-B: Approval of City Council Minutes
 - Items 8 A-G: Petitions and Communications
 - Item 9A: From the Mayor
 - Items 12 A-B: Receive and File
- Vote: Ayes-7, Nays -0, Motion carried

From the City Administrator

Item 11A:

Councilmember Brockert moved to adopt Resolution #2020-0253, approving revisions to Appendix D of City Code to include the recent changes regarding the Rental Housing Code. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

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

Item 11B:

Councilmember Brackett moved adopt Resolution #2020-0254, authorizing the assessment of unpaid nuisance abatement costs to private properties. Seconded by Councilmember Froelich.

There were questions from City Council regarding the repeat offenders that were addressed by Community Development Director Jodi Royal-Goodwin.

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

Item 11C:

Councilmember Hopkins moved to adopt Resolution #2020-0255, approving the contract and bond with Manatts, Inc for the Park Avenue 4 to 3 Lane Conversion Project. Seconded by Councilmember Jindrich.

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

Item 11D:

Councilmember Brackett moved to approve Request #2020-0256, for the issuance of a purchase order to Bill Miller Logging in the amount of \$16453.54, for brush and log grinding. Seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

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

Item 11E:

Councilmember Brackett moved to approve Request #2020-0257, for a non-disclosure agreement with Innovative Waste recycling, LLC, allowing manufactures to protect proprietary information when delivering material to the Muscatine Organic Recycling Center while protecting the City from Violation of the Open Records Laws. Seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

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

Item 11F:

Councilmember Froelich moved to approve Request #2020-0258, for the purchase of 2 barge loads of salt for the 2020-2021 Winter Season, for the bid price of \$58.32/ton. Seconded by Councilmember Hopkins.

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

Item 11G:

Councilmember Brackett moved to approve Request #2020-0259, implementing a Handicap Parking Space Policy for the City of Muscatine. Seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

There were questions from City Council regarding a fee for having a sign placed near your home for handicap parking that was addressed by Public Works Director Brian Stineman. He stated that in order to avoid residents having a sense of ownership to the public spot there would be no fee associated with this.

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

Item 11H:

Councilmember Brockert moved to approve Request #2020-0260, for the issuance of a purchase order to Muscatine Lawn & Power in the amount of \$13,999, for a riding lawn mower for the Public Works Department grounds. Seconded by Councilmember Hopkins.

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

Item 11I:

Councilmember Brackett moved to approve Request #2020-0261, for the issuance of a purchase order to Superior Seawall in the amount of \$88,400.00 for the repairs to the transient boat dock and the up river boat ramp. Seconded by Councilmember Froelich.

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

11J:

Councilmember Brackett moved to approve Request #2020-0262, for the 2020-2021 City Deer hunt. Seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

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

11K:

Councilmember Gordon moved to approve Request #2020-0262, for the nomination of Stephanie Romagnoli to the Iowa Community Assurance Pool Board of Directors. Seconded by Councilmember Brockert.

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

11L.

There were questions from City Council regarding road conditions of 25th/47th Streets. Councilmembers stated they had received several calls regarding these conditions.

Public Works Director Brian Stineman stated he would like to apply tree sap to the roads in question to help prevent the dust which is the biggest complaint at this time.

There was discussion regarding part of the area being County and the possibilities that the County would step up and work on their portion of the road as well.

Mr. Stineman stated he would like to revisit this with the residents in the fall for feedback.

Councilmember Brockert suggested a video meeting be arranged to discuss the opinions and thoughts of the residence affected by these roads.

11M.

There were questions from City Council regarding the use of contracted project managers and construction inspectors rather than use of City personnel.

Finance Director Nancy Lueck provided an overview of the history of the use of contracted project managers and inspectors over the past 8 years.

Mayor Broderson had questions as to why more than one project manager/inspector was on each project.

Public Works Director Brian Stineman stated they all work together on the different projects in order to be able to complete time sensitive work.

Mayor Broderson asked if these positions were ever advertised.

Mr. Stineman stated that the ones currently being used had been here as long as he had and that the experience and knowledge, they have would be hard to find.

Mayor Broderson asked if there was a written contract with the individuals, stating it is a large sum of money to spend without a formal contract.

Ms. Lueck stated that there is a written contract with Bill Haag but not with Steve Dalby.

Mayor Broderson asked what kind of check system was in place for the invoices that are turned in by the contractors.

Mr. Stineman States they first go to the Engineering Staff that approves them, they are then forwarded to the Public Works Director for approval and then finally to the Finance Director for approval before they are submitted for payment.

At this time there was discussion regarding forming a committee to evaluate the needs of the City and to establish a plan for the future use of contract employees vs. City employees. It was also noted that the City Engineer plans to retire soon and that this would be a good time to re-evaluate the needs of the City.

Mr. Stineman stated he had already been working on a plan and was waiting to see what would happen with COVID-19 and the hiring freeze before moving forward.

City Council agreed they would like to see a forward movement and would like the new City Administrator involved in the final process for future plans for construction inspectors and project managers.

There was a question from a resident regarding a nuisance abatement violation that was addressed by Community Development Director Jodi Royal Goodwin.

Councilmember Hopkins if Mayor Broderson had contacted the Law Firm regarding Ethic violations of a staff member. Mayor Broderson stated that it had been discussed in closed session and could not be discussed at this time.

Councilmember Brockert stated she would like to recognize the two Police Officers that went into a burning house and brought a lady to safety.

Councilmember Malcolm moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

ALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECORDINGS CAN BE WATCHED ON THE CITY OF MUSCATINE YOUTUBE PAGE.

Mayor Diana Broderson

Attest:

Greg Jenkins, Interim City Administrator