

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – October 20, 2011

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the City Council meeting for Thursday, October 20, 2011, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#21821. Councilmember Bynum moved to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2011 City Council meeting, October 8, 2011 Goals and Objectives Session, and the October 13, 2011 In-Depth meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

#21822. Councilmember Lange moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Renewal of a Class WBN Native Wine Permit for Flowers on the Avenue, 1138 E. 9th Street – Flowers on the Avenue Inc. (pending inspections); filing of Communications A-C; and Bills for Approval totaling \$1,801,693.89. Seconded by Councilmember Roby. All ayes; motion carried.

#21823. Councilmember LeRette moved to approve the request from John Shelangoski to move a home located at 3739 Mulberry Avenue to Lot 1 at 3432 Clermont on November 17, 2011. Seconded by Councilmember Roby.

Councilmember Bynum asked if it would take more than one day to the move house.

Community Development Director Steve Boka stated that if everything goes well, it should only take a few hours.

Councilmember Bynum asked Mr. Boka if he had any concerns.

Mr. Boka stated he has no reservations about the move. He stated the house being moved is a very nice one-story home.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#21824. Councilmember Natvig moved the resolution be adopted approving the final plat for Ripley Addition Part One. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh.

Councilmember Roby asked if this action tonight would put Lot 2 in Dave Ripley's name.

Jason Harder, who purchased Ripley Mobile Home Court (now Clearview), stated the original intent when the property was purchased was to exclude Lot 2. He stated that did not happen and tonight's action is for transfer purposes.

Vote – All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21825. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the resolution be adopted setting a public hearing for Thursday, November 3, 2011, at 7 p.m. upon the vacation of utility easements in Riverbend Second Addition. Seconded by Councilmember Lange. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21826. Councilmember LeRette moved the resolution be adopted accepting completed work on the 2nd Street Apartment Parking Lot Project and authorizing final payment to Heuer Construction. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21827. Councilmember Lange moved the resolution be adopted accepting the low bid and approving the contract and bond from Boche Plumbing in the amount of \$29,600 for the replacement of boilers at the Clark House. Seconded by Councilmember Roby.

Councilmember Natvig stated that two of the bids were in one dollar range and the other two in another dollar range. He asked if there was any explanation for the difference between the two ranges.

Housing Administrator Dick Yerington stated the engineer for the project didn't really have an explanation on the cost differences. He stated the engineer reviewed the bids and saw no reason why the bid should not be awarded to Boche Plumbing.

Councilmember Natvig asked if their bid met specifications, and Mr. Yerington answered yes.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked if the project was HUD funded, and Mr. Yerington answered all the way.

Vote – All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21828. Councilmember Bynum moved the resolution be adopted authorizing administrative policy changes to the Section 8 Tenant-Based Housing Choice Voucher Program. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21829. Councilmember Roby moved the resolution be adopted accepting completed work for the Heatherlynn Sewer Project and authorizing final payment to Sulzberger Excavating. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21830. Councilmember Lange moved the resolution be adopted accepting completed work for the Weed Park to Wild Cat Den Trail Project and authorizing final payment to Sulzberger Excavating. Seconded by Councilmember Roby.

Larry Koehrsen, 510 W. 2nd Street, stated it was really nice to be standing in front of City Council not asking for something for a change.

Mr. Koehrsen stated that at last week's In-Depth meeting there was discussion concerning the National Citizens Survey that was conducted in the City of Muscatine. He stated that one of the needs identified was additional recreational facilities and here we are tonight with a completed recreational project. He stated this has truly been a community project.

Mr. Koehrsen stated the trail is approximately 1 ½ miles long. He stated Council should have received a virtual tour prepared by him. He stated it shows the trail system starting at Kent Stein Park, walking through to Musser Park, along the levee through Riverside Park, ending at Weed Park at the newest segment of trail. He stated there is now 6 ½ miles of off-road trails in the community. Mr. Koehrsen stated this trail has many elements that we can continue to build on.

Mr. Koehrsen stated he wanted to thank the people involved with the project which included City Council and city staff, Randy Hill and Jon Lutz, Muscatine County and a number of private individuals. He stated that access easements were provided by Bridgestone-Bandag, HNI, and Muscatine Community College.

Mr. Koehrsen then recognized Sarah Lande who has been working on trails forever. He stated that Ms. Lande was very much responsible for getting the federal grant monies utilized for this project. He then asked her to come forward.

Ms. Lande introduced Bill Vincavich of SSAB and Gary Carlson of HNI. Ms. Lande stated that as everyone knows, federal grants do require local matches. She then asked Mr. Vincavich and Mr. Carlson to present the check their organizations were donating to the city for the funding of this project.

Mr. Vincavich stated that SSAB's vision states "we stand for a lighter, stronger and more sustainable future", and that his organization lives those words. He stated he feels this trail fits with SSAB's mission statement.

Mr. Carlson stated the HNI Charitable Foundation participates in many community projects. He stated that a lot of HNI's members call Muscatine home. He stated he hopes the entire community will enjoy the newest segment to the city's trail system.

Ms. Lande then thanked Randy Hill, Jon Lutz, and Andrew Fangman for their assistance. She ended by saying she hopes the city can become a Blue Zone community.

Mayor O'Brien thanked Mr. Vincavich and Mr. Carlson for the generous donation.

Councilmember Lange stated he has heard many positive comments from people who have used the trail.

Councilmember Natvig thanked the corporate community and the trails committee.

Councilmember Roby stated the city's trails could not be completed without the cooperation of everyone involved.

Vote – All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21831. Councilmember Roby moved the resolution be adopted authorizing the assessment of unpaid abatement costs to private properties. Seconded by Councilmember Bynum.

Councilmember Roby stated city staff is working diligently to clean up properties in Muscatine and assessing costs to those properties if necessary. She stated if residents would clean up their properties they would not have to go through this process. She ended by saying that properties that are taken care of enhance the community.

Vote – All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21832. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the Iowa Department of Transportation Federal Aid Agreement for a Surface Transportation Project (Colorado Street). Seconded by Councilmember LeRette.

Councilmember Shihadeh, speaking in reference to the grant received for the bridge lighting project, asked if there were any strings attached to this grant.

Public Works Director Randy Hill stated there really are no strings attached. He stated the challenge the city faces is working with the IDOT to make sure we do everything correctly. He referenced the need for the archaeological survey that City Council will be acting on tonight. He stated the category exclusions have been approved which means the city can move forward with easements and property acquisitions.

Mr. Hill stated that a design plan is still required and that the city is doing everything that is required by the IDOT.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#21833. Councilmember Natvig moved to approve the agreement with Complete Ground Maintenance of Davenport, Iowa, for assistance with excess compost and wood mulch materials at the compost site. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

#21834. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to authorize the issuance of a purchase order for the 2011/2012 snow hauling for the Central Business District and city parking lots to Bayfield Snow Removal. Seconded by Councilmember Lange.

Councilmember Roby stated it was her understanding there had been issues in the past but obviously the city has had no issues with this contractor.

Mr. Hill stated that she was correct.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#21835. Councilmember Roby moved to approve the request from the Traffic Committee to install stop signs at Fairview and Canon Avenue and at Lucas and Broadway. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

#21836. Councilmember Bynum moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Annual Financial Report. Seconded by Councilmember Roby. All ayes; motion carried.

#21837. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the request to issue a purchase order to Emergency Apparatus Maintenance Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$70,665 for repairs to the Fire Department's aerial ladder. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig.

Councilmember Bynum asked how long the ladder had been leaking.

Fire Chief Jerry Ewers stated since about June or July. He stated the ladder has been in and out of service since this past summer. He stated the problems are basically the hydraulics and the boom.

Councilmember Bynum stated that the parts will be coming from Finland. He asked how long it would be before the ladder is done.

Chief Ewers stated he was told that on average it takes 6 to 10 weeks for parts to arrive. He stated that once the parts are in, it will take approximately eight weeks to repair the ladder.

Councilmember Lange asked Chief Ewers if he would call the ladder defective or just normal wear and tear.

Chief Ewers stated he was not a mechanic and that he cannot say exactly what went wrong. He stated the ladder was purchased 14 to 15 years ago and they have a lifespan of approximately 20 years. He stated the packing has had to be replaced in the past. He stated the boom being bent is another matter. He stated that during fires, there is a lot of pressure involved when operating the water. He said the vendor could not pinpoint exactly what happened. He stated his educated guess is that the ladder is nearing the end of its life expectancy. He stated he was assured by the vendor that these repairs will last until it is time to replace the ladder.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked if the parts were on hand.

Chief Ewers stated that is what he was told.

Mayor O'Brien asked Chief Ewers if he felt the ladder would be available for a lengthy time once all the problems have been corrected.

Chief Ewers stated he is confident it will. He stated once the parts have been received the truck will be driven up to Minnesota for repairs. He stated the department will have a rental from Sioux City. He stated we have an automatic aid agreement with Davenport but we are not guaranteed they could provide the city with an aerial. He stated the rental fee is pretty reasonable and the city will be protected.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#21838. Councilmember Roby moved to approve the acceptance of the COPS grant. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig.

Councilmember Lange stated there are strings attached to this grant program. He stated that after three years the city is required to keep the officers an additional year.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that Councilmember Lange was correct.

Councilmember Lange stated that commitment could cost the city another \$150,000.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the potential cost could be \$110,000 to \$150,000. He pointed out that the School Resource Officer's position will revert back to the original agreement where the school pays 75% of the salary and the city 25%.

Councilmember Lange stated the City Council is committing to this expense. He stated he is not sure it is a good idea but he will vote in favor of accepting the grant.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that during the upcoming budget sessions, the city will be breaking that cost out over the next four years to prepare for the fourth year.

Councilmember Natvig stated that personally he feels the public's safety needs to continue to be a high priority for the city.

Councilmember Lange ended by saying the money that will be set aside to pay for the fourth year is money that could be used for something else in the budget.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#21839. Councilmember Roby moved to approve the City Council's Goals and Objectives for 2012. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

Councilmember LeRette stated he had met separately with Gregg to discuss the goals for the upcoming year. He stated he has a couple of issues that he feels are important enough to bring up and possibly amend the original motion to have them added to the list. He stated first that he feels an annual review is needed of all the ATE systems to make sure the cameras that are in place make sense where they are or if there are areas that could benefit by relocating them. He stated his second suggestion relates to the National Citizen Survey and what Muscatine has to offer. He stated he feels some type of measurable goal is needed about how the city can be marketed both locally and statewide. He asked if he would need to make a motion to amend the original motion to add his two suggested goals or if a consensus of City Council would suffice.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that if Councilmember LeRette would like to amend the goals, he should do so by individual motion. However, he pointed out goals could also be amended at the next meeting or not. He then said that if there is a consensus from City Council to proceed with Councilmember LeRette's suggestions as submitted they could do so.

Councilmembers were in agreement that the goals and objectives should remain as submitted.

Vote – Six ayes: Councilmembers Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. One nay: Councilmember LeRette. Motion carried.

#21840. Councilmember Lange moved to authorize the issuance of a purchase order to the Louis Berger Group in the amount of \$8,500 for an archaeological survey for the Mississippi River/American Discovery Trail that will go from Hershey Avenue to 41st Street. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes; motion carried.

#21841. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to declare two surplus balances in storage at the Water Pollution Control Plant as surplus to allow for their donation to Muscatine Community College. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh.

Councilmember Roby asked what a balance was, and City Administrator Mandsager stated it was a chemical scale.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

Under comments, Councilmember Bynum stated that today was his 32nd wedding anniversary.

Councilmember Roby welcomed two government students from Muscatine Community College who were in the audience. She announced that Halloween is October 31, 2011 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. She then announced that MCC's Taste of Education, which is held by the Alumni Association, will be held this Sunday afternoon from 4 to 6 p.m. She stated that \$6 will get you all the food you can eat.

Mayor O'Brien stated that earlier this week he had been part of the dedication service for the new National Guard Armory located at the municipal airport. He urged everyone to go down and see the new facility.

#21842. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Richard W. O'Brien, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator