

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – November 17, 2011

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the City Council meeting for Thursday, November 17, 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.

#21858. Councilmember Shihadeh moved to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2011 City Council meeting and November 10, 2011 In-Depth meeting. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes; motion carried.

#21859. Councilmember Lange moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows: Second reading of a new Class C Liquor License for Port City Pizzas Uptown, 1903 Park Avenue – Lacey Henderson-Mueller (pending receipt of final paperwork and inspections); filing of Communications A-C; and Bills for Approval totaling \$1,555,957.88. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

#21860. Councilmember Bynum moved to approve the use of city property for the Holiday Stroll on December 2, 2011 from 4 to 10 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Roby. All ayes; motion carried.

#21861. Councilmember Natvig moved the proclamation be adopted declaring November 2011 as "National Hospice and Palliative Care Month". Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

#21862. Councilmember Roby moved the resolution be adopted releasing a real estate mortgage under the 2006 Community Development Block Grant Owner-Occupied Residential Rehabilitation Program for 209 Grover Street. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

Councilmember Lange stated he feels the homeowners should be required to stay in their home for the duration of the five-year forgivable loan.

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

#21863. Councilmember Lange moved the resolution be adopted amending the completed work performed under the Weed Park to Wildcat Den Trail Project and authorizing final payment to Sulzberger Excavating. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette.

Councilmember Lange asked how the error affected the actual cost of the project.

City Engineer Jon Lutz stated the difference of approximately \$2,000 was included in the cost of the contract; however, it was not added to the last pay estimate.

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

#21864. Councilmember Roby moved to approve the engineering agreement with Anderson-Bogert & Surveyors in the amount of \$20,802 related to the installation of security fencing and camera and apron drainage improvements near the t-hangars. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

#21865. Councilmember Natvig moved to approve Change Order #2 for the Airport Lighting Project. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes; motion carried.

#21866. Councilmember Bynum moved to approve the final payment to General Asphalt Construction for the asphalt overlay of parking lots at Sunset Park. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes; motion carried.

#21867. Councilmember LeRette moved to approve Change Order #1 for the Clark House Boiler Replacement Project. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

#21868. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation for an Earmark Funded Project: MRT-Musser Park to Wiggins Road Trail. Seconded by Councilmember Roby.

Councilmember Bynum asked when work on the trail would begin.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated the critical answer is when funding is available. He stated that funding is to be from outside sources. He stated the city has dedicated \$50,000 for engineering costs to be included in debt service.

Public Works Director Randy Hill stated that one of the requirements of this agreement is that the city must submit a project schedule. He stated what will be happening is that over the winter he and Jon Lutz and the Trail Committee will work on the specifics of the project which includes the route and overall cost. He stated he will know in the spring just what the cost is going to be. He stated once the cost is determined, efforts will be made to find funding. He stated if that does not happen, there is no commitment for the city and the funds will go back to the federal government for use elsewhere. He stated he feels this project is worthy of the city's efforts.

Councilmember Bynum stated he felt the sound of Mr. Hill's voice indicates he is confident the goal will be reached.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked how long the ear-marked funds would be available to the city.

Mr. Hill stated the agreement says two years; however, the state does allow for extensions if they are qualified. He stated that because of problems finding a route, the funds have not been locked in. He stated that because funds are ear marked for projects that are underway, staff is concerned the state may want the money back. He stated that is why staff is taking this step.

Councilmember Lange asked why the trail could not extend from Musser Park down the levee.

Mr. Hill stated there were complications with security for the industries along the levee. He then explained all the routes that had been considered before deciding upon the one presented tonight.

Councilmember Natvig asked if the new proposed route will take advantage of existing easements.

Mr. Hill stated the route is still a work in progress. He explained the route the proposed trail will follow.

Councilmember Lange asked if the trail would be longer and Mr. Hill answered yes. Councilmember Lange then asked if it would be more expensive.

Mr. Hill stated that from a construction point of view, it may not be as expensive because the sand base will eliminate the need for extensive excavating. He stated there will be tradeoffs but he feels the trail may not cost as much.

Councilmember Lange stated he is very much in favor of trails. He stated he hopes funding can be secured through other funding sources.

Mr. Hill stated he feels it is fair to say that City Council (past and present) has been very supportive. He stated there is always concern about the local match.

Councilmember Lange then asked if the current Cedar Street project is almost finished.

Mr. Hill stated the contractor has until the end of December to complete the work.

Councilmember Bynum asked how long the trail will be, and Mr. Hill stated it will be 3.37 miles long.

Councilmember Roby stated she had attended a Blue Zones public forum earlier in the evening and there was strong support for the trails, walking, and biking. She stated she was glad to see that the work on trails continues.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#21868. Councilmember Lange moved to approve Change Orders #1 and #2 for the Cedar Street Culvert Extensions Project. Seconded by Councilmember Bynum. All ayes; motion carried.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette stated that we are going into the holiday season. He reminded everyone of the Art Center's Festival of Wreaths that will take place on Saturday evening. He stated that tickets are \$25. He then invited everyone to the Holiday Stroll on Friday, December 2, 2011.

Councilmember Natvig, speaking in reference to the recent string of burglaries that have been taking place in Muscatine, encouraged citizens who see anything unusual to contact the Police Department.

Mayor O'Brien also encouraged citizens to contact the Police Department if they notice anything different in their neighborhood.

Councilmember Lange wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that department budget meetings get underway on December 13, 2011. He stated that the Pension Board has adjusted its actuarial costs and the city should see a reduction of approximately \$80,000 in expected costs.

#21869. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Richard W. O'Brien, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator