

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – December 15, 2011

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the City Council meeting for Thursday, December 15, 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.

Mayor O'Brien swore in Mayor DeWayne Hopkins, and Councilmembers Tom Spread, Jeanette Phillips, Osama Shihadeh, and Phil Fitzgerald. He then swore in Police Officer Dustin Garner.

Bill Phelan of the Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry thanked Mayor O'Brien for the many things he has done for the City of Muscatine. He also thanked the outgoing Councilmembers as well. He then welcomed the new Councilmembers stating that he looks forward to working with them.

#21880. Councilmember Shihadeh moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2011 City Council meeting and the December 8, 2011 In-Depth meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

#21881. Councilmember Lange moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows: Renewal of a Class C Liquor License and Sunday Sales Permit for Flaming Embers Inc., 131 W. 2nd Street – Renee Teitsworth (pending inspections); filing of Communications A-E; and Bills for Approval totaling \$2,054,428.76. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes; motion carried.

#21882. Councilmember Natvig moved to approve the closure of Weed Park on August 19, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the 2012 HNI Corporation Family Fun Day and Picnic. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes; motion carried.

#21883. Councilmember Roby moved to approve the closure of Weed Park on May 27, 2012 from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. for the 34th Annual Melon City Criterium Bike Race. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

#21884. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the appointment of Kelly Rushford to the Art Center Board of Trustees. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes; motion carried.

#21885. Councilmember Roby moved the resolution be adopted accepting completed work performed for the boiler replacement at the Clark House and authorizing final payment to Boche Plumbing & Heating. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21886. Councilmember Natvig moved the resolution be adopted setting a public hearing on Thursday, January 5, 2012, at 7 p.m. for the extension of the agricultural lease for airport property. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21887. Councilmember LeRette moved to approve the professional services agreement with Anderson-Bogert related to airfield pavement maintenance. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

#21888. Councilmember Roby moved to approve the amendment to the Blue/White bargaining unit agreement to put Leadworkers into one classification and to reclassify the Maintenance Worker I position at Kent Stein to Athletic Facilities Specialist and the Lift Station Operator to a Lift Station Mechanic. Seconded by Councilmember Lange.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked if this amendment would affect salaries.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated that the amendment is merely for title changes.

Vote - All ayes; motion carried.

#21889. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated the Audit Committee met with the auditors and found that everything was in order. He commended the Finance Department for once again doing an excellent job.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette thanked Mayor O'Brien for his years of service and also thanked the outgoing Councilmembers. He also welcomed Mayor Hopkins and Councilmembers Spread and Phillips. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year.

Councilmember Fitzgerald echoed Councilmember LeRette's comments. He stated he has enjoyed the Mayor's company on City Council all these years.

Councilmember Natvig stated he felt Mayor O'Brien and the outgoing Councilmembers were very dedicated servants. He thanked them for their years of service.

Councilmember Shihadeh took the opportunity to thank Mayor O'Brien and the outgoing Councilmembers for their service stating it has been a pleasure working with them. He stated it is his hope that "good things continue to happen" in Muscatine. He then wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilmember Bynum also thanked Mayor O'Brien and the outgoing Councilmembers for their service especially during the budget sessions held every year. He stated he appreciates all the things they have done for the city.

Councilmember Roby thanked Mayor O'Brien for being such a great leader. She stated she gained a tremendous amount of knowledge during her four years on City Council.

Councilmember Lange gave a presentation on his top 12 memories. Before beginning his presentation, he read a disclaimer releasing the city of any responsibility for his power point. He then read through those memories. The final picture in his presentation was his home on Mulberry Avenue all lit up with Christmas decorations. He stated he had decorated the house for 50 years and that it was a labor of love. He stated the decorations have been moved to his new home at River Station.

He stated it has been an honor to serve as a public servant. He stated he is glad to have Tom replacing him. He then said farewell and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

City Administrator Mandsager told Mayor O'Brien and Councilmembers Lange and Roby that it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with them for the past two years.

Mayor O'Brien stated he had a few remarks he wanted to make. He stated that following retirement, he had made the decision to move back to Muscatine intending to play golf and cut grass. He stated that he started out as a 3rd Ward Councilmember in 1993 and was elected as Mayor in 1996.

He stated he was very proud of the riverfront and that he feels it will remain a focal point for the City of Muscatine.

He stated he feels City Council, both current members and new members, will be faced with serious decisions during the upcoming budget sessions as well as those in the future.

He stated the last 16 years have been great and have been a lot of fun. He stated he is glad the riverfront will have a new ice skating rink. He then stated that "good things are happening" in Muscatine and he believes they will continue to happen. He stated it has been a pleasure working with everyone. He ended by saying that he was Mayor because of the people of Muscatine.

#21890. Councilmember Shihadeh moved to go into Closed Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss property acquisition. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

Mayor O'Brien called the Closed Session to order at 7:56 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Also present were City Administrator Mandsager, Community Development Director Steve Boka, City Engineer Jon Lutz, WPCP Director Roger Kirby, and Assistant WPCP Director Jon Koch.

#21891. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to leave the Closed Session at 8:58 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21892. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Richard W. O'Brien, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator