

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – March 8, 2012

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, March 8, 2012, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Solid Waste Manager Laura Liegois, Police Chief Brett Talkington, Finance Director Nancy Lueck, Public Works Director Randy Hill, Community Development Director Steve Boka, and City Planner Andrew Fangman.

The first item on the agenda was a resolution approving a subordination agreement for property located at 212 Grover Street.

#21969. Councilmember Bynum moved the resolution be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

Solid Waste Manager Laura Liegois provided an update on curbside recycling. She stated the City of Muscatine entered into an agreement with Allied Waste Services of Bettendorf, Iowa, to provide curbside recycling services. The program went into operation on April 4, 2011. She stated that the participation rate for the city is at 95%.

Nicole Schueller of Allied Waste Services presented the City of Muscatine with a plaque recognizing its recycling efforts in 2011. She stated that the city has exceeded Allied's expectations.

Councilmember Bynum recognized the city for its recycling program and especially the blue containers. He stated that 95% participation by the community was not expected. He stated that one challenge he sees is that some of the containers are left out all the time. He stated Ms. Liegois deserved a Gold Star for her efforts.

Councilmember LeRette asked if there will be a new calendar, and Ms. Liegois stated it can be found on the website.

Councilmember Natvig asked what size bins most residents preferred, and Ms. Liegois stated that most residences have the 65 gallon containers.

The next item on the agenda was discussion on a proposed amendment to Title 4, Chapter 1 Animal Regulations as it pertains to dangerous animals within the city limits, particularly ball pythons.

Police Chief Brett Talkington reviewed his memo and research with City Council which included his recommendation that City Council not change the present ordinance.

Councilmember Bynum stated he wants to protect the residents of Muscatine and did agree with Chief Talkington's recommendation.

Councilmember LeRette stated he was in favor of amending the ordinance with the 6' length limit. He stated he feels the snakes should be registered with the city, as noted in Chief Talkington's memo, as an alternative.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager referred to the snake problems that are taking place in the Florida Everglades.

Councilmember Natvig stated it is important to be careful with exceptions. He stated he also supports

Chief Talkington's recommendation.

Councilmember Phillips thanked Chief Talkington for his research.

Anthony Wolfmueller, who is the owner of two ball pythons, stated he agreed with the 6' limit being made and he also agreed they should be registered with the city much like cats and dogs.

Finance Director Nancy Lueck reviewed her memorandum with City Council concerning ESI's account status.

City Administrator Mandsager stated this matter can be discussed during a closed session at a later date but that City Council would be receiving a confidential memo on Friday.

The next item on the agenda was an overview of the voluntary annexations involving R.L. Fridley Theatres (2.8 acres), airport property (47 acres), and Irish Ivy and the Parkview Condominium Association (16 acres).

City Planner Andrew Fangman gave a power point presentation showing the location of the properties involved. He stated the proposed annexation involving Irish Ivy and the Parkview Condominium Association would add an estimated 28 homes to the City of Muscatine as well as 68 people and approximately \$40,000 in additional revenue.

He stated the annexed parcels would be added to the tax rolls on July 1, 2013.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked if the small piece being annexed along with the Irish Ivy and Parkview Condominium Association's annexation was city owned and he was told it was.

There was discussion concerning other areas that could be annexed into the City of Muscatine.

The final item on the agenda was discussion concerning a TIF request that was received from R.L. Fridley Theatres Inc.

City Administrator Mandsager reviewed his memo and the terms of the TIF agreement that are being requested by Fridley Theatres.

Russ Vannorsdel stated Fridley Theatres wants to be here in Muscatine and having a TIF agreement would help to achieve that result. He stated he feels the theatre complex would have a positive impact on future development in the area.

Councilmember Natvig asked if they had complexes in communities similar in size to Muscatine.

Mr. Vannorsdel stated the statistics provided in the information provided to City Council were based on the Spencer theatre complex and other similar sized Fridley theatres in Iowa. He then referred to other larger complexes in Iowa such as those found in the Des Moines area.

Councilmember Bynum asked when the theatres are expected to be completed, and Mr. Fridley they should be completed by the end of November or December 2012.

Bill Phelan of the Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce & Industry stated this proposed theatre complex is a wonderful opportunity for the City of Muscatine. He stated residents can take pride in the complex, and this is also an opportunity for Muscatine's economy to grow.

Councilmember LeRette asked if the TIF state legislative issues would affect this TIF request, and City Administrator Mandsager reviewed current legislation.

Councilmember Natvig stated he is hearing nothing but positives on the development of this theatre complex.

#21970. Councilmember Bynum moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:13 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator