

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – July 12, 2012

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, July 12, 2012, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Also present was City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Community Development Director Steve Boka, and Public Works Director Randy Hill, and Street Maintenance Supervisor Randy Howell.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the Mississippi Drive Corridor Project. Community Development Director Steve Boka introduced Jeffrey Hillegonds of Stanley Consultants who gave a power point presentation outlining the parameters of the project, the project history, the Phase I process, purpose and need for action, the four areas included in the project, the overall corridor alternatives, the options available for the Carver Corner area, as well as the future project tasks and schedule.

Mr. Hillegonds stated there are two roadway alignment improvement alternatives along with a No-Build alternative. He gave a brief description of the two alternatives stating that the three-lane option was the preferred alternative. He stated the No-Build alternative is not recommended.

Mr. Hillegonds then reviewed the five options (1A, 1B, 1C, 1D & 1E) available for the Carver Corner area. He explained the advantages and disadvantages of these options and then explained why all options other than 1C (signalized), 1C (roundabout), and 1D were eliminated for consideration.

Mr. Hillegonds ended his presentation with an overview of the future project tasks and schedule.

Councilmember Spread asked if there was a preferred option for the Carver Corner area, and he was told there was not one yet.

Councilmember LeRette stated originally there were five options and it is now down to three. He stated that of the five options, his preference was 1E which was considered mainly to avoid impacts to potential 4(f) resources in the Carver Corner area. He was told that 1E does not comply with IDOT safety standards due to the tight S-curve configuration.

Councilmember Natvig asked if Green Street would see more usage and he was told it probably would not.

There was discussion concerning the usage of a roundabout, signalization, and potential traffic growth.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked about funding for the corridor project. He was told there are no guarantees; however, chances for funding will be better once the environmental clearance document 4(f) is in place.

Councilmember Spread asked if delays in the project are due to the 4(f) requirement and he was told that it is making the project more cumbersome due to the number of historical buildings along the corridor.

Councilmember Spread asked if the 4(f) will make the TeStrake property untouchable. He was told that staff does not anticipate that happening. However, the city can mitigate if necessary.

There was discussion concerning the two options for 1C, one using signalization and the other utilizing a roundabout.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated that his preference would be Option 1D and that he would prefer signalization over a roundabout.

The next item concerned snow emergency regulations. Public Works Director Randy Hill gave a power point presentation on a proposed snow emergency ordinance. The proposed ordinance would call for “alternate side of street” or “even/odd” parking during snow emergencies. He stated the proposed change would be more efficient, safer, and would have long-term benefits.

Mr. Hill stated staff had reviewed a number of policies from other communities and Iowa City’s was the best fit for the City of Muscatine. He stated they have a similar snow and ice policy and have had calendar parking for the past three years.

There was discussion concerning the process of declaring a snow emergency which was followed by enforcement of the “alternate side” parking during a snow emergency.

Mr. Hill stated that “alternate side” parking would allow for more efficiency when plowing the streets, would improve safety, and as a long-term benefit would allow for the removal of snow before it ices and hardens.

There was further discussion concerning the “alternate” side parking as well as the long-term benefits.

Councilmember Natvig stated it was his understanding that snow removal could be done much quicker.

City Administrator Mandsager stated it would be more efficient and there would be a cost savings.

Following further discussion, it was the consensus of City Council to move forward with revisions to the snow removal ordinance.

#22143. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes; motion carried.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator