

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – August 16, 2012

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the City Council meeting for Thursday, August 16, 2012, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Bynum, Spread, and Phillips.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hopkins swore in Police Officer Daniel Rigg.

Easlin Hahn, 701 Woodlawn Avenue, stated she was the vice president of an anti-bullying group that has been established in Muscatine. She stated the group meets on Tuesday afternoon at the Musser Public Library. She stated it is the group's goal to get more community involvement. She stated bracelets are available with the group's name "It Only Gets Better".

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked when the group would meet once school starts.

Ms. Hahn stated the meeting time will be changed to 5 to 7 p.m.

#22183. Councilmember Fitzgerald, seconded by Councilmember Phillips, moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Minutes of the August 2, 2012 City Council meeting
- Renewal of a Class B Beer License for Yacky Shack, 114 E. 2nd Street – Yacky Shack LLC (pending inspections); renewal of a Class C Beer Permit and Sunday Sales for Casey's General Stores #1484, 1111 Oregon Street – Casey's Marketing Company (pending inspections and insurance); renewal of a Class B Beer License and Sunday Sales for China Garden, 2016 Cedar Plaza Drive #3 – China Garden At Cedar Plaza Inc. (pending inspections and insurance); request for a new Class B Wine Permit, Class C Beer Permit and Sunday Sales License (previously a Class B Wine Permit, Class C Beer Permit, Class "E" Liquor License and Sunday Sales License) for Hy-Vee Drugstore, 510 E. 6th Street – Hy-Vee Inc. (pending inspections)
- Appointments of Tom Spread to the Enterprise Zone Committee and Jeanette Phillips to the Historic Preservation Commission
- Filing of Communications A-F
- Bills for Approval totaling \$1,463,261.23

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#22184. Councilmember Bynum moved the resolution be adopted releasing a real estate mortgage for 1820 Schiller Street. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22185. Councilmember Natvig moved the resolution be adopted approving amendments to the Muscatine Municipal Housing Agency Capital Improvements Program 2011 Annual Grant. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22186. Councilmember Spread moved the resolution be adopted setting a public hearing for the Golf Course Irrigation Project for Thursday, September 6, 2012, at 7 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips.

Councilmember LeRette asked if this project had been budgeted, and City Administrator Gregg Mandsager answered yes.

Councilmember LeRette then asked if this project fell under the Enterprise Fund, and City Administrator Mandsager answered yes stating the golf course operation falls under the Enterprise Fund.

Councilmember Natvig asked for an explanation on the difference between the old system and the system being proposed.

Athletic Facilities Manager Nick Gow stated the current system is a hydraulic system. He stated that some of the lines under this system are starting to collapse. He stated the system being proposed will be electrically controlled and will provide for double row irrigation allowing for a more uniform irrigation of the golf course.

Mayor Hopkins asked about the life expectancy of the current system as well as the life expectancy for the new system.

Mr. Gow stated the new system should last as long as the current system; however, there is no information available at this point in time because tonight's action is to establish the public hearing for the project.

Vote – All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22187. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the request to issue a purchase order to C.R. Landscaping in the amount of \$14,876.95 for the Soccer Complex Drainage Project. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes; motion carried.

#22188. Councilmember Natvig moved to approve the request from the Police Department to issue a purchase order to Racom in the amount of \$6,978.73 for the purchase of an audio/video recording system for the interview room. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes; motion carried.

#22189. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve Change Order #2 for the Harrison Street Extension Project. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

Councilmember Bynum asked what the original estimate was for the project.

City Engineer Jon Lutz stated the engineer's estimate was \$465,000 and the original contract amount approximately \$510,000.

Councilmember Spread asked if the unused driveway cuts were going to be removed.

Mr. Lutz stated some of the driveway cuts were from the old Hy-Vee store and some had been covered with asphalt. He stated the streets will be paved to the city's current standards. He noted that Harrison Street is actually paved from Plaza Place to Bandag Drive and the area behind Colorado School is being finished up. He stated the area behind the school does not have any sod or fencing yet but it is suitable for use.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated he could understand missing a manhole that was covered with asphalt but he questioned how the curbing and driveway cuts could have been missed.

Mr. Lutz stated that the project was looked at as a whole and that no one actually went out and physically walked the area. He pointed out there have been several other costs savings. He pointed out that the city's goal is to have a quality street.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#22190. Councilmember Natvig moved to approve the request authorizing the installation of two pivotal stop signs on Mulberry Avenue at Bonnie Drive. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated he could not support this request. He stated that over the years there has been discussion about placing stop signs at this intersection. He stated that if this request were approved that would make three stop signs between Bonnie Drive and Hillcrest Baptist Church.

Public Works Director Randy Hill, who also serves on the city's Traffic Committee, stated the school district was told the Traffic Committee would only consider the stop signs at Bonnie Drive. He stated it was his understanding the school district was willing to give up the stop signs in front of Mulberry School.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated he felt the removal of stop signs at Mulberry School would not be a good idea.

Mr. Hill stated this request was prompted by the amount of traffic that backs up when school lets out. He stated this stop sign would allow traffic to turn left off of Bonnie Drive onto Mulberry Avenue.

Councilmember Natvig asked who had made the request for these stop signs, and Mr. Hill stated it was made by a school representative who also sits on the Traffic Committee.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated that traffic does back up here and it has for years. He pointed out that the high school clears out in approximately 20 to 25 minutes. He stated there is a waiting period that people will have to get used to when leaving the high school. He stated once again that he feels the pivotal stop signs are not necessary.

Councilmember LeRette asked what the cost would be to the city, and Mr. Hill answered there would be no cost to the city.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated there has been discussion through the years about adding an exit onto Houser Street but it has never been pursued. He stated that people just need to be patient when leaving the high school on Bonnie Drive.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated it was his understanding that a third exit has been approved as part of the schools future capital improvements.

Councilmember Natvig asked where the proposed exit would be, and City Administrator Mandsager stated it would be across from MP&W's drive on Houser Street.

Councilmember LeRette stated it was his understanding lights are going to be installed at the entrance of the high school as part of the Cedar Street improvements, and City Administrator Mandsager stated he was correct.

Mr. Hill stated that a grant application was submitted earlier in the week to help pay for the lights.

Councilmember Natvig stated that Councilmember Fitzgerald's reasoning seems logical.

Mayor Hopkins stated the majority of the afternoon backups are caused by people who want to turn left. He stated bus drivers know that once they reach the stop sign on Bonnie Drive they should turn right.

Councilmember Spread stated he does not feel it makes sense to remove the stop signs at Mulberry School.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked that City Council show support by not approving this request.

Vote – Six nays; motion failed.

#22191. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the request from the Water Pollution Control Plant for the issuance of a purchase order to Mellen & Associates in the amount of \$14,507 for a Plasi-Fab heavy duty 36" sluice gate. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

Councilmember Spread asked if this sluice gate could be relocated. He also asked how much money is in the reserve fund.

Water Pollution Control Director Roger Kirby stated the sluice gate is hard to maintain because it is located in about 30' of water. He stated it will be a lot less expensive to do the replacement work now that river levels are so low.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the city will need to come up with a better maintenance plan for the sluice gate.

Mr. Kirby stated there are sufficient funds in the reserve to cover the cost of this valve replacement.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#22192. Councilmember LeRette moved to approve the request for a Mercer Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund match in the amount of \$37,500 for a local business expansion. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

City Administrator Mandsager stated this request has been discussed by the RLF Committee as well as by the Chamber and city staff. He stated it was his recommendation that this contribution be split between the city, county, and Chamber.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated that he wants to see this business get their local match to keep the process moving. He stated he feels the request for the \$37,500 should be approved right away and then staff can work on coming up with the split.

Councilmember Bynum agreed with the City administrator that the \$37,500 should be split as well; however, he fully recommended helping the business owner out immediately.

Councilmember Natvig asked if the request should be approved as presented or if it should be amended to include the split between the three entities.

City Administration Mandsager stated that City Council could approve the \$37,500 match with the understanding that the city will be asking the Chamber and the county to contribute to the project. He

stated the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors meets on Monday and they have indicated this matter will be included on their agenda. He stated he does not know when the Chamber will address the matter. He stated this matter needs to be addressed through the RLF Committee.

Mayor Hopkins strongly urged supporting this request stating that he firmly feels the city should do everything it can to create jobs in our community.

Councilmember Spread stated he felt the request should be approved as submitted and then equal participation sought from the Chamber and the county. He stated he had a copy of the original Mercer Muscatine Revolving Loan Fund agreement and that it implies the match does come from the sponsoring community.

Councilmember Phillips asked if the original motion should be amended to include participation by the county and the Chamber.

Councilmember LeRette stated he agreed with Councilmember Fitzgerald that this request should be approved in order to keep the processing moving for the business owner.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that a “friendly” amendment could be made to the original motion requesting equal participation from the Chamber and from the county.

City Council agreed with the “friendly” amendment.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked Douglas Buster, who owns PCG Powder Coating and Anodizing and who was in the audience, what the \$842,000 would include.

Mr. Buster stated that was for the purchase of all the equipment. He stated production should start sometime in September. He stated that approximately 8 to 10 people have already been hired and that another 12 employees will be needed. He stated that when all is said and done, there will be over 25 jobs.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked if he could give any indication on the wages that will be paid.

Mr. Buster stated starting pay will be \$10 per hour and will go up to \$15 per hour.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette stated that school begins next week and he asked drivers to use caution and to watch out for children as they are going to and from school.

Councilmember Fitzgerald suggested that students existing on Bonnie Drive turn right onto Mulberry Avenue.

Councilmember Bynum asked when the bridge over Mad Creek would reopen.

City Engineer Jon Lutz stated he has been checking on the project and that they appear to be on schedule. He stated the bridge is scheduled to reopen on August 29, 2012.

City Administrator Mandsager stated there has been one small snag which involves the tracks for the gate. He stated that some type of cover is needed to protect them from the snow plows.

Mr. Lutz stated there will probably still be work going on after the bridge is opened.

Councilmember Bynum then asked about the grand opening for the new fire station.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the open house will be held sometime in September and that official notices will be sent out once the exact date has been established.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that there was a great turnout at the town hall meeting held on Tuesday. He stated the next meetings will be held on August 21st, August 28th, and September 5th. He stated that folks can also make comments or suggestions online.

Mayor Hopkins echoed the comments made by Councilmembers LeRette and Fitzgerald. He stated that driving a vehicle is a privilege and that those operating a vehicle should have patience and consideration for others, particularly during this time of year.

#22193. Councilmember Spread moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:52 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Clerk