

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – March 14, 2013

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, March 14, 2013, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Community Development Director Steve Boka, Parks & Recreation Director Rich Klimes, and Athletic Facilities Manager Nick Gow.

The first item on the agenda was a Mississippi Drive Corridor Project update. Community Development Director Boka introduced Jeff Hillemonds and Barb Veal of Stanley Consultants. Mr. Hillemonds stated the Mississippi Drive Corridor Study has been in progress since 2010. He stated that numerous field studies and analyses have been completed and two public input meetings held. He stated a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) document was submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation for their review and comment. As part of his power point presentation, Mr. Hillemonds stated that comments were received regarding cultural resources along the corridor. He stated the two areas of concern are the Beach Lumber Company site and the downtown stretch of Mississippi Drive between Linn Street and Mulberry Avenue.

Mr. Hillemonds then reviewed with City Council the proposed corridor roadway options as well as options available at the Green Street intersection.

Councilmember Natvig asked what the response time is following the archaeological studies and he was told it was approximately two to three weeks.

Councilmember Spread asked what the Iowa Department of Transportation is looking for and he was told they are looking for more complete information on the archaeological sites.

Councilmember LeRette asked when City Council could make its final recommendation, and he was told it could be done at any time.

City Administrator Mandsager stated City Council would make their selection at the meeting when the public hearing is set.

Mayor Hopkins, speaking in reference to the archaeological process, asked how the testing is done, and he was told it would be shovel testing which is less disruptive.

There was discussion concerning mitigation measures.

The next item on the agenda was a tax abatement update. Community Development Director Boka reviewed the notice that was mailed to affected property owners informing them of the public hearing to be held at the April 11, 2013 In-Depth meeting.

Mr. Boka reviewed the information submitted to City Council with their agenda packet detailing the proposed tax incentives which include historic districts, blighted districts, new construction, and various other incentives.

There were numerous questions from Council that were answered by staff.

The next item on the agenda was a review of miscellaneous park projects. Parks & Recreation Director Rich Klimes gave an overview of the information contained with the agenda which included trail signage, Jane McFate Memorial Trailhead Project, and the Weed Park Central Corridor Project.

Councilmember Fitzgerald, speaking in reference to the proposed restrooms at Weed Park, stated he wanted to avoid a port-a-pot style facility.

Athletic Facilities Manager Gow gave a presentation on the Jane McFate Trailhead Project. He stated the project will be handled through private funding and volunteer help. He stated it will include a shelter, bench, bike rack, memorial dedication plaque, and kiosk.

Greg Harper, representing the Melon City Bike Club, gave a presentation on the proposed distance markers that will be placed at half mile increments beginning at the Pearl City Station and progressing both up river and down river on the riverfront. He stated the bike club has donated the funding necessary to complete the trail from approximately Musser Park to Weed Park.

Dave Bender, also representing the Melon City Bike Club, gave a presentation on proposed trail mileage markers that would provide multiple destinations and mileage on discrete signage placed at various locations throughout the trail system to include the riverfront, Greenbelt, Kent Stein Park, Weed Park, and Fuller Park. He stated the bike club would donate \$700 toward this program.

Council was told that the Recreation Advisory Commission unanimously supports the abovementioned projects and that the Trails Committee supports the signage programs.

The final item on the agenda was a presentation given by City Administrator Mandsager for the Bruner Field lease agreement with the high school and college.

There was discussion concerning the proposed draft agreement which will be placed on the March 21st City Council agenda for Council action.

#22434. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator