

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – February 18, 2010

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the City Council meeting for Thursday, February 18, 2010, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Roby, Bynum, and Lange.

Henry Meyers, Associate Pastor at the Mulford Evangelical Free Church, gave the opening prayer. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#20924. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the minutes be approved for the February 4, 2010 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes; motion carried.

#20925. Councilmember Lange moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows: Renewal of a Class E Liquor License for Fareway Stores Inc. #998, 2100 Cedar Plaza Drive; renewal of a Class E Liquor License with Sunday Sales for Hy-Vee Inc., 2400 2nd Avenue; renewal of a Class C Liquor License for Sylvia's Mexican Restaurant, 1903 Park Avenue – Sylvia Rada (pending inspections); renewal of a Class C Liquor License with Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service for Rumors, 1415 Grandview Avenue – Fluff LLC; renewal of a Class B Beer and Sunday Sales Permit for China Garden, 2016 Cedar Plaza Drive #3 – M&J of Muscatine Corp. (pending receipt of dram shop insurance); renewal of a Class C Beer and Sunday Sales Permit for Kum & Go LC #436, 501 Cedar Street; renewal of a Class C Beer and Sunday Sales Permit for Kum & Go LC #437, 709 Grandview Avenue; renewal of a Class C Beer and Sunday Sales Permit for Kum & Go LC #438, 1010 Park Avenue; renewal of a Class C Beer and Sunday Sales Permit for Loos Inc., 711 Park Avenue; renewal of a Class C Beer and Sunday Sales Permit for Steamboat Landing LLC, 3509 Steamboat Way; filing of Communications A-D; and Bills for Approval totaling \$2,272,308.83 as well as receipt summaries and journal entries for August and September 2009. Seconded by Councilmember Bynum. All ayes; motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor O'Brien stated a public hearing was being held concerning the proposed submission of an application for state and federal transit funds for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

There were no oral or written petitions for or against the proposed submission of the application.

#20926. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the public hearing be closed. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

Dan Clark, chair of the Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission and Kent Sissel, owner of the Alexander G. Clark House located at 203 W. 3rd Street, were present to request authorization to establish the Alexander G. Clark Heritage District. He outlined the areas to be included in the proposed district and then gave a brief history on Alexander G. Clark. He stated it was his understanding that action would be taken on this request at a future City Council meeting.

Councilmember Bynum asked about the events planned for the upcoming weekend.

Mr. Clark stated there would be a Black History Month celebration at the MCSA located at 312 Iowa Avenue on Saturday beginning at 4:30 p.m. and then a presentation on Alexander G. Clark will take place Sunday at 1 p.m. at the art center.

Councilmember Natvig asked if this designation would be done with a plaque.

Mr. Clark stated that nothing is being requested at this time; however, ideas will be presented in the future.

Mr. Sissel stated Mr. Clark was not well known in Muscatine; however, he was well known in the judicial, legal, and academic communities.

Mayor O'Brien stated this item would be placed on the March 4, 2010 agenda for action by City Council.

Mayor O'Brien then announced the city's intent to reappoint Brandy Dulceak Olson to the Civil Service Commission.

#20927. Councilmember Roby moved to approve the ordinance on second reading providing for the division of taxes levied on taxable property in the Muscatine 2010 Industrial Urban Renewal Area pursuant to Section 403.19 of the Code of Iowa. Seconded by Councilmember Bynum. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried and ordinance approved on second reading.

#20928. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the resolution be adopted authorizing the submission of an application to the Iowa Department of Transportation for state and federal transit funds for fiscal year 2010/2011. Seconded by Councilmember Lange. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

#20929. Councilmember Roby moved the resolution be adopted setting a public hearing for public comment concerning the Muscatine Municipal Housing Agency Five-Year Plan (2010-2014) for Thursday, April 15, 2010, at 7 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

#20930. Councilmember Lange moved the resolution be adopted authorizing changes to the Muscatine Municipal Housing Agency Administrative Plan for the Section 8 Tenant Based Housing Choice Voucher Program. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

#20931. Councilmember Bynum moved the resolution be adopted authorizing changes to the Muscatine Municipal Housing Agency Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy. Seconded by Councilmember Roby. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

#20932. Councilmember Natvig moved to approve the extension of the contract with Central Salt for the purchase of road rock salt at \$59.82 per ton for the 2010-2011 winter season. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

Councilmember Roby asked how many tons were on a barge load and how much salt is typically used during the winter season.

Public Works Director Randy Hill stated a barge load is approximately 1,500 tons. He told Councilmembers that approximately 2,100 tons of salt have been used so far this winter season.

Councilmember Natvig asked when it would be delivered.

Mr. Hill stated the advantage of purchasing the salt this early in the year is that delivery does not conflict with the leaf pickup season. He stated the first barge load will probably arrive in August and the second load in September.

There was discussion on the transportation cost as well as the number of loads that are purchased.

Councilmember LeRette asked if the salt was still being mixed with Geo-Melt, and Mr. Hill answered yes.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#20933. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to authorize the issuance of a purchase order to Robotronics in the amount of \$12,158.50 for a new Freddie the Fire Truck. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh.

Councilmember Lange stated this is a very effective tool for the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Jerry Ewers stated the Fire Department will be happy to receive this new piece of equipment.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette complimented Dan Clark and Kent Sissel on their presentation and the work they have done to date.

Councilmember Natvig congratulated Assistant Police Chief Phil Sargent and Captain Brett Talkington.

Councilmember Roby, speaking in reference to the condition of the city's streets, stated she had read a recent article that likened the damages to streets during the winter months to pop cans that are placed in the freezer -- the cans pop and when hit with warm air, they still pop.

Mr. Hill stated the freezing and thawing causes the streets to crack and potholes to appear. He stated that during this time of year a cold mix is used; however, it is not very effective. A hot mix cannot be used because it will not seal in cold weather. He stated that beginning in April and May, street crews will do the best job they can in filling the potholes.

Councilmember Lange then provided clarification on the need to raise property taxes. He stated he understands there is concern about raising the taxes but it is a small amount. He stated the increase is primarily due to debt increases, capital projects, and the Pavement Management Program which is in its third year.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated that Steve Boka, the city's Planning, Zoning, and Building Safety Director, was here to provide an update on the 2010 Census.

Mr. Boka stated that periodic updates are required as part of the 2010 Census. He stated the census, which began in 1790, is held every 10 years. He stated census forms are being mailed out to residents and the forms contain only 10 questions and are very easy to fill out. He then stated the federal government has over \$400 billion dollars to be awarded to communities based on their statistical information. He stated that every person that is counted means money coming back to this community. He stated the census has to be completed and in the President's hands by December 31, 2010.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that Finance Director Nancy Lueck put together an update following the budget meeting held earlier this week and that a summary of that information was on their desks. He then stated a request had been made to move the meeting date next week from Tuesday to Wednesday so that more members could attend. He stated that Council would be given an opportunity for more discussion prior to the establishment of the public hearing.

A request was made to begin the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and Council was in agreement.

Mayor O'Brien stated the meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

#20934. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.



Richard W. O'Brien
Richard W. O'Brien, Mayor