

CITY OF MUSCATINE  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
City Administrator's Office – March 15, 2010

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the City Council special meeting for Monday, March 15, 2010, to order at 5:30 p.m. Councilmembers present were Fitzgerald (by phone), Natvig, Lange, Bynum, LeRette, Roby, and Shihadeh. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Finance Director Nancy Lueck, and City Attorney Harvey Allbee Jr.

#20967. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to reconsider the resolution approving the annual budget and tax levy certifications for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 that failed to get the required number of voters at the March 11, 2010 In-Depth meeting. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes: Councilmembers Shihadeh, Natvig, Fitzgerald, Lange, and Roby. Two nays: Councilmembers Bynum and LeRette. Motion carried.

The motion by Councilmember Natvig, seconded by Councilmember Roby as action #20963 at the March 11, 2010 In-Depth meeting to adopt the resolution approving the proposed annual budget and tax levy certification for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 is before the Council for consideration once again.

Councilmember Shihadeh stated he has been receiving calls from constituents wanting to know if there is anything that can be done to change the proposed budget at this point. He stated he feels changes could be made to personnel which is 70% of the budget.

There was discussion concerning personnel issues, goals, taxes, Police and Fire pensions, and debt service.

Councilmember Shihadeh pointed out that pension costs are out of the city's hands because they are regulated by the state.

Councilmember Bynum stated he received numerous calls especially concerning the increased funding to outside agencies. He stated he feels this funding should be cut before personnel.

Mayor O'Brien pointed out that when reductions are considered then service reductions must also be considered.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated he feels it would be unfair to make any changes to the budget at this time.

#20968. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to call for the question. Seconded by Councilmember Roby. Two ayes: Councilmembers Fitzgerald and Roby. Five nays: Councilmembers LeRette, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Lange. Motion failed.

Councilmember Lange stated he has received more complaints concerning the traffic light enforcement project than the budget. He stated it is really too late to make changes at this time.

There was further discussion by Council concerning budget issues.

Councilmember LeRette stated his objections were not to the proposed budget itself but to the proposed franchise fee.

Councilmember Shihadeh pointed out the franchise fee could be taken down in the future.

Mayor O'Brien stated Council and staff spent many hours on the proposed 2010/2011 budget. He pointed out the meetings were open to the public.

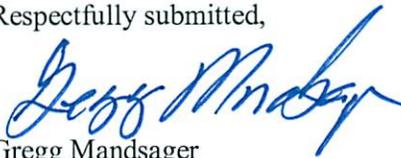
City Administrator Mandsager noted that no one spoke concerning the budget on March 11, 2010, nor was there anyone present tonight to speak towards the budget.

#20969. Councilmember Roby moved to call for the question. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes; motion carried.

Vote - Five ayes: Councilmembers Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Roby, and Lange. Two nays: Councilmembers Bynum and LeRette. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

#20970. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 5:55 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Roby. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregg Mandsager  
City Administrator