

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – September 19, 2013

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the City Council meeting for Thursday, September 19, 2013, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Phillips.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Robert Bromwell, 2414 Lucas Street, was present to talk about the Greenwood Cemetery steps which are approximately 100 years old. He stated there used to be four concrete step ways going up the bluff but only two remain. He stated they include the Cherry Street steps which are still in use and the cemetery steps which have fallen into disrepair. He then explained the importance of the cemetery steps.

Mr. Bromwell stated most of the steps are in sound condition. He stated there are some areas that need work, and hand rails are needed. He stated he feels if the stairs are repaired, they could last another century.

Mr. Bromwell presented a petition signed by 521 residents in support of repairing the cemetery stairs and also read a letter he received from Mike Lawrence, who resides at 1112 Oak Street, asking City Council to consider repairing the steps.

Councilmember Bynum thanked the group dedicated to saving the historical stairs for coming to the meeting. He stated that currently the city is seeking two estimates to find out the cost of repairing the stairs. He referenced a Letter to the Editor that indicated the city might qualify for funding assistance for this project. He asked that this matter be placed on City Council's upcoming CIP agenda.

Peggy Gordon, 802 Wier Street, thanked the city for including a proposed dog park as part of the Comprehensive Plan. She stated she feels a dog park will bring like minded citizens together. She stated she wanted to take this opportunity to let City Council know there is a group of citizens working to move this project forward who will be willing to do whatever is necessary to help to move the dog park forward.

Joni Axel, 208 W. 2nd Street, speaking in reference to the kickoff of the Blue Zones Project in Muscatine held recently at the Muscatine High School, acknowledged the city's support in the Blue Zones effort so far. She stated the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, and many others have been very helpful.

#22638. Councilmember LeRette, seconded by Councilmember Natvig, moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Renewal of a Class "B" Beer, Class "C" Native Wine Permit, Sunday Sales and Outdoor Sales for Pete's Tap, 1820 Angle Street – Oscar's LLC (pending inspections); renewal of a Class "B" Wine Permit, Class "C" Beer Permit and Sunday Sales for Aldi Inc. #05, 3200 Northport Drive – Aldi Inc. (pending inspections); renewal of a Class "B" Wine Permit, Class "C" Beer Permit, Class "E" Liquor License and Sunday Sales for Muscatine Fast Break, 2603 Second Avenue – Reif Oil Company (pending inspections); renewal of a Class "B" Native Wine Permit for Flowers On The Avenue, 1138 East 9th Street – Flowers On The Avenue (pending inspections); and approval of first and second reading for a new Class "C" Liquor

- License and Sunday Sales for Diamond Dave's, 1903 Park Avenue – K & E Restaurants Inc. (pending inspections and insurance)
- Request approved from Melon City Bike Club to use city property for the Ride Across Iowa Day Ending at the Riverfront from 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 28, 2013, to 8 a.m. on Sunday, September 29, 2013
 - Request approved from Boche Plumbing to close Fairview Avenue for sewer repairs
 - Request approved from WWII Honor Tour Committee for placement of a WWII Veterans Recognition Plaque on the Riverfront
 - Approval of Proclamation declaring October 6-12, 2013 as “Public Power Week”
 - Filing of Communication 12A
 - Bills for Approval approved totaling \$1,422,588.77

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hopkins stated a public hearing was being held concerning the proposed vacation of utility easements in the Cedar Plaza Subdivision – Phase II.

There were no oral or written petitions for or against the proposed vacation of the utility easements.

#22639. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the public hearing be closed. Seconded by Councilmember Bynum. All ayes; motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hopkins stated a public hearing was being held concerning the proposed Weed Park Maintenance Building Project.

There were no oral or written petitions for or against the proposed project.

#22640. Councilmember Natvig moved the public hearing be closed. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips. All ayes; motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hopkins stated a public hearing was being held concerning the City of Muscatine's proposed Comprehensive Plan.

There were no oral or written petitions for or against the proposed plan.

#22641. Councilmember Bynum moved the public hearing be closed. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes; motion carried.

#22642. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the resolution be adopted vacating utility easements in the Cedar Plaza Subdivision – Phase II. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Phillips. Motion carried.

#22643. Councilmember LeRette moved the resolution be adopted approving the City of Muscatine's Comprehensive Plan. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig.

Councilmember Shihadeh commended everyone involved in the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan. He asked how City Council and staff would now move forward with the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated there many ways the plan will move forward. He stated one of the pieces is the Capital Improvement Plan that staff is currently working on and that should be completed in December. He stated the CIP is a five-year plan. He stated there are several initiatives going on right now. He stated there are committees working on components of the plan right now, City Council will begin discussing is goals and objectives at their meeting in October, and the plan will also be part of the upcoming budget sessions. He stated that one large project stemming from the plan is the updating of the Zoning Ordinance which is a budgeted project.

City Planner Andrew Fangman stated the updating of the zoning ordinance is going to be quite an undertaking.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the plan will be used as a tool by City Council and staff when establishing priorities and policies.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked if the comments made by Councilmember Spread at the September 5, 2013 Council meeting were included as part of the plan.

City Administrator Mandsager read the paragraph that was included in the introduction of the plan as follows:

“The Comprehensive Plan is an important tool for City Council and City Staff when determining priorities and allocating resources. Fiscal responsibility is one of the City’s core values and important to maintaining the long-term fiscal health of the City. The Comprehensive Plan is structured in a manner that defines the priorities that the community places on the various elements that comprise its overall vision. Implementation of the plan will be balanced with the availability of financial resources. The Comprehensive Plan will assist decision makers in allocating City resources in a manner that most effectively implements the community’s highest priorities or goals.”

Councilmember Natvig also commended everyone for the work that went into the Comprehensive Plan.

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

#22644. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the resolution be adopted accepting the low bid, awarding the contract, and approving the contract and bond for the T-Hangar Apron Drainage Improvement Project at the Municipal Airport. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Phillips. Motion carried.

#22645. Councilmember Phillips moved the resolution be adopted approving the contract and bond from Quality Construction Services Inc. of Eldridge Iowa in the amount of \$483,103 for the WPCP Lab Annex Project. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Phillips. Motion carried.

#22646. Councilmember Bynum moved the resolution be adopted approving the Annual City Street Finance Report for Fiscal Year 2012/2013. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Phillips. Motion carried.

#22647. Councilmember LeRette moved the request be approved authorizing the issuance of a purchase order to Elliot Equipment Company in the amount of \$23,218 for four Perkins Tippers for the refuse collection pilot program. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

#22648. Councilmember Natvig moved the request be approved authorizing the issuance of a purchase order to Rehrig Pacific Company in the amount of \$34,925 for 800 containers for the refuse collection pilot program. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips.

Councilmember LeRette asked about the locations of the pilot areas.

City Administrator Mandsager stated a presentation would be made at the October In-Depth meeting.

Solid Waste Manager Laura Liegois stated that next week there will be a map on the website showing the locations. She stated she does not have a complete map and feels it will be better to discuss the program at the October In-Depth meeting when the maps are complete.

Councilmember LeRette asked about the time table for the pilot program.

Ms. Liegois stated her staff will be placing containers out in late October or early November.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#22649. Councilmember Bynum moved to authorize the issuance of a purchase order to Hoglund Bus and Truck in the amount of \$188,748 for two transit vehicles. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips. All ayes; motion carried.

#22650. Councilmember LeRette moved to approve the issuance of a purchase order to C.R. Landscaping in the amount of \$29,946 for fence repairs at Kent Stein Park. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig.

Councilmember Bynum asked Athletic Facilities Manager Nick Gow if there were any other safety hazards at the park.

Mr. Gow stated the fences are the biggest issue right now and that everything else is in good shape.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the original cost for the fence repairs was \$60,000; however, over half of the work has been done by staff.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Councilmember Bynum also thanked everyone, especially those who were present for the cemetery stairs.

Mayor Hopkins stated it was the MHS homecoming this weekend. Go Muskies!

#22651. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator