

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – October 3, 2013

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the City Council meeting for Thursday, October 3, 2013, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Bynum, Spread, and Phillips.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#22652. Councilmember Spread, seconded by Councilmember Bynum, moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Renewal of a Class “B” Native Wine Permit, Class “C” Beer Permit and Sunday Sales for A&E Convenience, 4701 South Highway 61 – A&E Convenience LLC (pending inspections)
- Approval of Trick-or-Treat Night on October 31, 2013 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Approval of Proclamation Declaring October 6, 2013 as “Crop Hunger Walk Day”
- Filing of Communications 12A-G
- Bills for Approval approved totaling \$5,758,644.01 which includes journal entries and receipt summaries for June 2013

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#22653. Councilmember Phillips moved the resolution be adopted approving the plans, specifications, form of contract, cost estimate, and setting bid opening date for the Weed Park Maintenance Building Project. Seconded by Councilmember Bynum. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22654. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the resolution be adopted awarding the contract for the Colorado Street Reconstruction Project to Heuer Construction in the amount of \$2,849,949.71. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

Councilmember Natvig asked why there was such a price difference between the bids.

Public Works Director Randy Hill stated no one really knows how bids are going to come in. He stated in this instance, it was his understanding the contractor had materials on hand which allowed him to adjust his bid accordingly. He stated the engineer’s estimate was pretty much on the money. He ended by saying staff feels this is an excellent bid.

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

#22655. Councilmember Bynum moved the resolution be adopted awarding and approving the contract for the Air Release Valves Repair Project. Seconded by Councilmember LeRette.

Councilmember Bynum asked if the valves for this project are located in south end.

City Engineer Jon Lutz stated the valves are located between the Water Pollution Control Plant and the pumping station located at Dick Drake Way and Stewart Road.

Councilmember Bynum commented on the odor in the south end area.

Mr. Lutz stated the smell is not the reason for the valve replacements. He stated that currently there is air in the lines and it sprays sewage around which is not good. He stated this is the first phase of at least three phases for the valve replacement program. He stated there are approximately 35 of these valves that must be dealt with.

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

#22656. Councilmember Natvig moved the resolution be adopted accepting the low quote for the Security Gate and Camera Project at the Municipal Airport from FSH Inc. in the amount of \$54,395. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22657. Councilmember LeRette moved to approve the purchase of additional materials for the T-Hangar Drainage Project totaling \$3,171. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips. All ayes; motion carried.

#22658. Councilmember Spread moved to authorize moving forward with the sidewalk program and hiring a project manager. Seconded by Councilmember Bynum.

Councilmember LeRette stated he would like to see this matter moved to the budget sessions since it was not approved for the current fiscal year budget. He stated he does not see an urgent need to add a new staff member outside of the budget.

Councilmember Natvig agreed with Councilmember LeRette stating that funding of the position is not as solid as he would like to see.

City Administrator Mandsager stated it was taken out of the proposed budget because City Council had asked that it be brought back during the calendar year. He pointed out that development of a sidewalk policy was one of City Council's goals for 2013.

City Administrator Mandsager identified the benefits of moving forward with hiring of a project manager to assist in the development of a sidewalk policy. He stated that if this issue is tabled until budget discussions, it could be 2015 before a policy is ready. He pointed out that the public had identified the development of a sidewalk policy as a priority during the development of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated it is staff's recommendation this issue be brought forward now rather than later.

Councilmember Phillips stated she also said she would prefer waiting until budget to discuss this issue.

There was discussion on the qualifications required for this position.

Councilmember Bynum stated the hiring of a project manager was one of City Council's goals. He stated it will take time to get an individual trained so now is the time to do it.

Councilmember Spread stated he fully supports the position. He stated he understands budget concerns, but funding for this position will not come from the General Fund. He stated if City Council approves this requests, he anticipates seeing someone on staff before spring.

City Administrator Mandsager stated staff's recommendation is to move forward on the sidewalk policy with the hiring of a project manager. He stated this position will not be funded through the General Fund. He stated there are ways to offset the cost for this position in order to get the development of a sidewalk policy moving forward.

Councilmember Natvig stated that in looking at the information received about the funding of the position, he sees some funding sources are pretty solid but some are not.

City Administrator Mandsager stated City Council would have an opportunity to evaluate this position during an in-depth meeting to see if it is doing exactly what they want. He said we can fill this position now or wait until after July 2014.

Councilmember Spread stated if there comes a time when this position is no longer necessary, City Council could eliminate it since they have the authority to do so.

Vote – Three ayes: Councilmembers Fitzgerald, Bynum, and Spread. Three nays: Councilmembers LeRette, Natvig, and Phillips. Motion failed.

Councilmember Phillips suggested this matter be brought up at a subsequent meeting to allow Councilmember Shihadeh to comment.

Mayor Hopkins asked if there is any more information that could be shared at the next In-Depth meeting.

City Administrator Mandsager asked the Mayor what he was looking for specifically that hasn't already been supplied to City Council.

There was discussion on the timetable for hiring a project manager.

Public Works Director Randy Hill stated he is not aware of any additional details that could be made available to City Council. He stated Public Works is constantly receiving sidewalk complaints. He then explained what some of those complaints were.

Mr. Hill stated this is the third year the sidewalk issue has been brought forward. He stated that if City Council does not want to move forward on establishing a sidewalk policy, staff can continue to operate on a complaint basis. He asked for clarification from City Council on how they want to handle the sidewalk issue.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated that if the project manager position is not being funded, City Council can require that adjacent sidewalks be included on a project by project basis.

Councilmember LeRette stated he feels it would be better to wait four months so the sidewalk issue can be considered as part of the entire budget process.

Councilmember Natvig agreed with Councilmember LeRette. He stated that during the budget process perhaps other areas of funding could be determined.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that typically he would agree; however, during budget sessions earlier this year staff was asked to bring the sidewalk issue back during the calendar year which is what they have done.

Under comments, City Administrator Mandsager reminded everyone about the Public Safety Building Open House on October 13, 2013.

#22659. Councilmember LeRette moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:36 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator