

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

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, November 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, City Planner Andrew Fangman, Planning/Community Development Coordinator Adam Thompson, Public Works Director Randy Hill, and City Engineer Jon Lutz.

The first item on the agenda was a CIAT/Blue Zones update. Rich Dwyer, who serves on the CIAT, gave an update on the University of Iowa's Initiative for Sustainable Communities. He stated graduate students from the U of I are currently researching and gathering data for 13 projects. He reviewed the highlights of the projects. He pointed out the work being done by the students is part of their class work.

Councilmember Natvig stated this activity meshes with the city's goals.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated the key to each of these projects is they have long-term sustainability.

Mayor Hopkins stated the students have numerous resources available to them.

Councilmember Phillips asked if they are working on Randy Hill on the trails and was told they were.

Joni Axel, representing the Blue Zones Project, thanked the city for their assistance. She stated that costs are to be expected; however, sustainability and partnerships are key factors. She then touched on the Blue Zones support of the city's proposed Complete Streets Policy and the Cedar Street Project both of which are on tonight's agenda.

The next item on the agenda was a power point presentation by City Planner Andrew Fangman on the Flood Plain Ordinance. The presentation covered flood insurance rate maps and city flood plan regulations. Mr. Fangman stated there has been a reduction in land within the flood plain.

Mr. Fangman then reviewed the flood plain maps both current and new.

Councilmember Spread stated there should be a significant drop in the flood plain insurance requirements including lower costs.

There was discussion concerning the notification of residents which is part of the process of adopting the flood plain ordinance.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the Community Development Block Grant award.

Before beginning the update, Community Development Director Steve Boka introduced Adam Thompson who is the city's new Planning/Community Development Coordinator. He will be taking over the program.

Mr. Boka then reviewed the components of the project which will include overhead utilities, façade repairs, door and window replacement, alley repaving, sustainability, storm water management, and improved trash collection.

Mr. Boka stated staff is hoping to see the funds released in December. He stated the design process will take place during the winter months with a spring letting planned.

There was discussion concerning the repaving/bricking of the alleys.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the petrographic analysis on Runway 6/24 at the municipal airport. Mr. Boka stated the consultant has suggested the city install between 16 and 26 expansion joints in the runway/connecting taxiways. He stated the cost will be very similar to the patching work included in the FAA funding pre-application for this project. He stated it is estimated the expansion joints will add five to eight years to the pavement life which is now 20 years old. He stated that the FAA funding pre-application process that occurred prior to the petrographic analysis. He stated that at that time the FAA had advised to include resealing of all pavement joints greater than 15 years old. However, it is now unclear if the FAA will want to include this work since the sealer may outlive the pavement itself.

Mr. Boka stated that in lieu of completing the expansion joint project, another option is to completely reconstruct the pavements as soon as possible. He stated that if this option is chosen, construction will have to wait until FFY 2015 due to funding limitations for FFY 2014. Mr. Boka then reviewed the possible options for the runway project.

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Complete Streets Policy review. City Planner Andrew Fangman gave a power point presentation. He gave an explanation of a complete street and its common features which include sidewalks, paved shoulders, bike lanes, adjacent trails, safe crossing points, accessible curb ramps, pedestrian refuse medians, bus stop access, and sidewalk "bump-outs" at intersections.

Mr. Fangman stated the proposed Complete Street Policy will give direction to how future street projects will be designed and will direct that streets be designed for all users, not just motorists. He stated the proposed policy will guide the planning, funding, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of all new and modified streets in the City of Muscatine. He then listed the exemptions to the construction of a complete street.

Councilmember Spread asked if written findings as to compliance will be provided as projects move forward.

Council was told that a detailed implementation plan will follow the U of I program.

Councilmember Natvig stated he felt MAGIC could be utilized in this process.

Allen Harvey, 2206 Oak Valley, stated he would still like to see the installation of sidewalks to University Avenue.

The final item on the agenda was an update on the Cedar Street Project and roundabout.

Public Works Director Randy Hill gave a historical review of the project and what has taken place to date. He stated the focus of the project has changed due to traffic numbers and accident history. In 2011 City Council selected the option for the Cedar Street Reconstruction Project. Since that time, staff has been looking for additional funding through traffic grants and increased STP funds.

Mr. Hill stated Blue Zones representatives studied the intersection at Cedar and Logan streets and recommended the installation of a roundabout at Logan Street. He stated the advantages of a roundabout include traffic calming and safety, pedestrian access and safety, and more efficient flow of traffic.

Council was told the estimated cost for the project is \$3.6 million. The bid letting will take place in January 2014, the contract awarded in February 2014, and construction scheduled to begin in April 2014.

City Engineer Jon Lutz reviewed the design components of the roundabout.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette reminded everyone of the Festival of Wreaths taking place at the Art Center this weekend.

Councilmember Natvig thanked staff for the grant work they do on the city's various projects.

#22698. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

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Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator