

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

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the City Council meeting for Thursday, December 19, 2013, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Curtis Beeding, 2509 Forest Parkway, asked about the status of the repaving of Forest Parkway.

Public Works Director Randy Hill stated that Forest Parkway is at the top of the list for streets to be repaired and will be discussed during the upcoming budget sessions.

Councilmember Fitzgerald invited Mr. Beeding to attend the budget sessions.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager swore in Mayor DeWayne Hopkins and Councilmembers Robert Bynum and Michael Rehwaldt.

#22731. Councilmember LeRette, seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald, moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Approval of December 5, 2013 City Council minutes and the December 12, 2013 In-Depth minutes
- Filing of Communications 12A-C
- Bills for Approval totaling \$2,151,480.48

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hopkins stated a public hearing was being held concerning the proposed amendment to Chapters 4 and 5 of Title 10 of the City Code pertaining to Floodplain Management Regulations.

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

#22732. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the public hearing be closed. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes; motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hopkins stated a public hearing was being held concerning the proposed Cedar Street Reconstruction Project.

Paul Kraushaar, who lives just off Cedar Street and who has a business on Cedar Street, asked what happens to the turn lane before and after the roundabout.

City Engineer Jon Lutz stated the street design is 43' wide and will include tapering turn lanes at Wood Creek, Stonebrook and the high school. He pointed out there will not be a tapered lane at Imperial Oaks.

City Administrator Mandsager asked the City Engineer to explain the layout of the roundabout.

Mr. Lutz stated the area coming into the roundabout on Logan Street will be approximately 50' long, from the east the area coming into the roundabout will be 100' long, and 200' on the west side of the roundabout as it separates traffic coming into the intersection.

Mr. Kraushaar asked if there was still going to be a trail on the north side of Cedar Street. He then asked how pedestrians would get from Logan Street to the trail.

Mr. Lutz stated that on each approach to the roundabout, pedestrians will only have to cross one lane of traffic at a time. He stated that no pedestrian traffic will go into the center of the roundabout, and that area will be maintained as green space and will have a truck apron on it.

Mr. Kraushaar stated there is a lot of pedestrian traffic on Cedar Street, especially students walking to school. He asked if there will be an area of the shoulder the students can walk on or will they be required to cross over to the trail.

Mr. Lutz stated the full distance on Cedar Street from Parham to Houser will have a 10' wide trail. He stated that typically there is a green space of approximately 8' between the trail and the curb. He stated he feels pedestrians will probably utilize the trail rather than the green space.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked if there would be sidewalks on the south side of Cedar Street.

Mr. Lutz stated that on the west end of Cedar Street the sidewalk will start at Houser Street and will travel past the high school and medical complex ending at Imperial Oaks. He stated he feels pedestrians will get used to using the trail side of the street.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked if there will be curb and gutter the full length of Cedar Street, and Mr. Lutz answered yes.

Roger Roth, 117 W. 3rd Street, explained why he preferred a turn lane over a roundabout.

Charles Lorensen, 1808 Briarwood Lane, voiced his concerns about a roundabout at Logan Street. He stated he is concerned that vehicles are still going to be stopping at this intersection. He stated that during the winter months he is concerned there will be accidents at the roundabout.

Curt Beeding, who spoke earlier in the meeting, expressed his concern about semi trucks trying to use the roundabout.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the roundabout will accommodate trailers up to 53' wide as well as the aerial fire truck.

Denise Wright, 2107 West Bay Drive, stated she has not talked with one person who is in favor of the roundabout. She stated she is concerned about pedestrian traffic as well as emergency vehicles.

Jack Burns, 2002 West Bay Drive, asked what kind of studies were done for traffic flow at Carver Corner and for the intersection at Logan and Cedar streets. He stated that in order for a roundabout to work, folks have to yield to traffic which he thinks will not happen. He stated he feels a traffic light that is activated when vehicles are stopped on Logan Street would be the best solution for vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Joni Axel, 208 W. 2nd Street, stated she was Program Manager for the Blue Zones Project. She stated that she understands the concerns residents are expressing tonight. She stated Cedar Street is everyone's street. She stated that engineering studies were done to determine how the traffic could be calmed on Cedar Street. She stated the purpose of the roundabout is to make Cedar Street much more useable for everyone.

Mayor Hopkins asked if traffic counts had been done at Carver Corner and at Logan and Cedar streets.

Mr. Lutz stated traffic counts were done at Logan and Cedar at various times of the day and the information tallied and sent to the Iowa Department of Transportation. He stated the information was analyzed by the IDOT and utilized in making their recommendation for the roundabout. He stated there are approximately 3,500 vehicles at the Logan Street intersection on a daily basis and approximately 8,000 vehicles on Cedar Street.

City Administrator Mandsager stated staff feels a roundabout would be appropriate at this intersection.

Councilmember Fitzgerald, speaking in reference to Carver Corner, explained why the roundabout option was not selected.

Ms. Wright asked what other options were available for the intersection at Logan and Cedar streets. She also asked if the safety providers in Muscatine are comfortable with the roundabout.

Mr. Lutz stated the Traffic Committee discussed the roundabout with various groups of people in Muscatine that would be affected by the roundabout. He stated there have been no negative comments received from the Public Safety Department.

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

#22733. Councilmember Spread moved the public hearing be closed. Seconded by Councilmember Bynum. All ayes; motion carried.

#22734. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapters 4 and 5 of Title 10 of the City Code relating to Floodplain Management Regulations. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22735. Councilmember Phillips moved the ordinance be adopted on final reading vacating an unimproved portion of the Charles Street right-of-way and directed for its publication as required by law. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22736. Councilmember Spread moved the resolution be adopted authorizing the sale of the previously vacated unimproved portion of the Charles Street right-of-way to the property owner at 2218 New Hampshire Street. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22737. Councilmember Bynum moved the resolution be adopted approving an executed deed for the previously vacated unimproved portion of the Charles Street right-of-way. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22738. Councilmember Spread moved the resolution be adopted approving the plans, specifications, form of contract, cost estimate, and setting the bid opening date for the Cedar Street Reconstruction Project. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips.

Councilmember Fitzgerald, speaking in reference to the roundabout to be located at Logan Street, stated many residents are not in favor of its installation.

Public Works Director Hill stated that the majority of the accidents at that intersection involve the rear ending of vehicles. He stated if the roundabout does not work, changes can be made.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that experts from the Iowa Department of Transportation and the city's own expert have determined a roundabout would be much more efficient and safer.

There was brief discussion concerning the trail.

Vote – Five ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. One nay: Councilmember Fitzgerald. Motion carried.

#22739. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the resolution be adopted accepting completed work for the West Hill Storm and Sanitary Sewer Separation Project Phase I and authorizing final payment to Langman Construction. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Motion carried.

#22740. Councilmember Bynum moved the resolution be adopted authorizing the assessment of unpaid abatement costs to private property owners. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips.

Councilmember Bynum commended Community Development Director Steve Boka and his staff for their efforts.

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

#22741. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the Annual Financial Report and Audit for the year ended June 30, 2013. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated that Finance Director Nancy Lueck and her staff did a great job.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette thanked everyone for their support while he served as Councilmember for the 2nd Ward. He then announced he was withdrawing from the race for State Representative.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated it had been a pleasure to serve with Councilmember LeRette. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Shihadeh stated he was pleased to serve with Councilmember LeRette as well.

Councilmember Bynum told Councilmember LeRette the past four years have been great. He then wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilmember Phillips stated she had enjoyed serving with Councilmember LeRette.

Councilmember Spread stated it had been a pleasure serving with Councilmember LeRette. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

City Administrator Mandsager stated he had enjoyed working with Councilmember LeRette.

Mayor Hopkins ended the meeting by stating he had enjoyed working with Councilmember LeRette and then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

#22742. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator