

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – June 10, 2010

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, June 10, 2010, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, IT Manager John Kreuzenstein, and Planning, Zoning & Building Safety Director Steve Boka.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the website content management system. The topic matter was introduced by City Administrator Gregg Mandsager. IT Manager John Kreuzenstein then gave a power point presentation. He outlined where the city is with its current website, the steps necessary to upgrade to a new website, and the key attributes of a new municipal website.

Councilmember Lange asked about current website usage. Mr. Kreuzenstein will provide City Council with those numbers. Councilmember Lange asked how information to be placed on the website will be submitted. He was told that with the new site, each department will be responsible for its own page.

Councilmember Shihadeh stated websites and other IT items are often outdated when purchased. He asked about future costs. He was told the city will be better equipped to control costs with this hosted site. He was also told there will be no hardware costs and that software updates are part of the annual fee which will have no more than a 3% increase.

Councilmember Natvig asked if the website would be up 24/7. He was told the site would be up 99.97% of the time.

Councilmember LeRette asked if it would have internet and intranet capabilities and he was told it would. He then asked if it would be integrated with Twitter and Facebook and was told that it would, but these are new tools and people need to understand how they are used.

Councilmember Roby asked if training would be included. She was told that training would be phone and web based. She then stated the current website needs to be updated and that this proposed website will be a great educational tool. He stated he had recently visited website examples and is excited about what is out there.

The next item on the agenda was a TIF review. City Administrator Mandsager reviewed the information contained in Council's memo and then discussed two TIF success stories.

Steve Boka, the city's Planning, Zoning & Building Safety Director, reviewed the maps City Council had received showing the TIF Districts and Urban Renewal Areas.

City Administrator Mandsager then provided a power point highlighting the benefits and requirements of the TIF program as well as tying a future economic development strategy to TIF utilization.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Meharry for their preservation award.

#21108. Councilmember Shihadeh moved to go into Closed Session at 8:40 p.m. for a personnel review. Seconded by Councilmember Lange. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

The Closed Session was called to order at 8:40 p.m. In attendance were Mayor Dick O'Brien and Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Also in attendance was City Administrator Gregg Mandsager.

#21109. Councilmember Shihadeh moved to leave the closed session at 9:32 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#21110. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:32 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregg Mandsager
City Administrator