

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – August 4, 2016

Mayor Broderson called the City Council meeting for Thursday, August 4, 2016, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Saucedo, Bynum (by telephone), Harvey, and Spread.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Broderson swore in Police Officers Kenneth Voorhees and Kimberly Halpain.

Dan Clark, 1221 Mulberry Avenue, stated he is very happy with the city employee responsible for providing communications to the citizens. He also stated he feels everyone should work to get along better.

#23503. Councilmember Natvig, seconded by Councilmember Harvey, moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Regular City Council Minutes – July 21, 2016
- Request on second reading for a new Special Class “C” Liquor License and Sunday Sales for Dabeets Bistro, 128 East 2nd Street – Dabeets Bistro LLC (pending inspections and insurance); renewal of a Class “C” Liquor License, Catering Privilege, Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales for Port City Underground, 208 West 2nd Street – Lacey Henderson-Mueller (pending inspections); and renewal of a Class “B” Native Wine Permit and Sunday Sales for The Flower Gallery, 131 East 2nd Street – Karen Diercks (pending inspections)
- Approval of Applications for Revitalization Property Tax Abatement for Tobain and Heather McCarter and Jeffory and Lisa Hollenbeck
- Filing of Communications 12A-D
- Bills for Approval totaling \$2,518,151.96

Vote – Six ayes and one nay (Councilmember Bynum); motion carried.

#23504. Councilmember Bynum moved the second reading of an ordinance amending appointment and removal powers in Title 1, Chapter 11, Title 2, Chapters 1-4 and 6-9, and Title 6, Chapter 1; and adding Chapters 11 and 12 to Title 2 be tabled.

Motion died for lack of a second.

#23505. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending appointment and removal powers in Title 1, Chapter 11, Title 2, Chapters 1-4 and 6-9, and Title 6, Chapter 1; and adding Chapters 11 and 12 to Title 2. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

John Dabeet, 2515 Lucas Street, asked that City Council please consider tabling this matter to see if the issue at hand can be resolved.

At this time Tom Spread read an email that he asked be put into public records (see Public Document #93555-0816). He stated he feels everyone should know his feelings about this issue.

Except for Councilmember Bynum, Councilmembers were all in agreement that this proposed ordinance amendment will allow for cooperation and collaboration between the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor Broderson explained the process she used for making appointments.

Sherry Leonard, 102 Grover Street, stated she feels the City Council and Mayor should to learn to get along.

Mr. Clark suggested that City Council try a pilot program and then revisit the issue at a later date.

There was then discussion concerning the Police and Fire Chief positions.

Vote – Six ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Sauce, Harvey, and Spread. One nay: Councilmember Bynum. Motion carried.

#23506. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the ordinance be adopted amending the zoning ordinance for property located at 1409 Wisconsin Street (formerly Garfield School) and directed for its publication as required by law. Seconded by Councilmember Rehwaldt. All ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Saucedo, Bynum, Harvey, and Spread. Motion carried.

#23507. Councilmember Bynum moved the resolution be adopted setting a public hearing on a request to vacate certain utility easements on Lots 6 and 7 of the Riverbend Fifth Addition (3500 Diana Queen Drive) for Thursday, August 18, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Harvey. All ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Saucedo, Bynum, Harvey, and Spread. Motion carried.

#23508. Councilmember Spread moved to amend the City Council Rules to correct the City Code Reference in Section 1.2 pertaining to special meetings from 1-6-6 to 1-9-5. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

#23509. Councilmember Natvig moved to approve the Pilot Sidewalk Poetry Program. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

Community Development Director David Gobin gave a slide presentation on the proposed pilot program that was developed by the Muscatine County Arts Council and presented to the city approximately one year ago. He stated the Arts Council held a poetry competition and selected five works that were converted into stamps that will be pressed into fresh concrete by Public Works staff during sidewalk projects. He stated the stamps are on display tonight.

Mr. Gobin stated that only a handful of communities have this type of program and that the reviews have been phenomenal.

There was discussion on how the poems were selected.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated he was concerned about the tripping hazard.

City Administrator Mandsager stated it was his understanding the stamps meet ADA requirements.

Joel Kraushaar, 3417 Baton Rouge Road, stated he is an avid art supporter and he is very excited about this program.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated he would approve this request; however, he wants to see the poems.

Mr. Gobin stated he would get the poems to City Council for their review.

Councilmember Harvey asked if the sidewalk owners would be asked before sidewalks in front of their homes are stamped, and City Administrator Mandsager answered yes.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

#23510. Councilmember Bynum moved to approve the deferred maintenance repair list for city-owned facilities. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes; motion carried.

#23511. Councilmember Natvig moved to approve the proposal from Martin and Whitacre for surveying services for repairs to the Mississippi River Levee in an amount not to exceed \$9,000. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

Councilmember Rehwaldt asked if there was any reason we should not postpone this work.

City Engineer Jim Edmond stated it is not a critical item that will cause the levee to fail. He explained the issue and then stated staff would like to get the survey done and get the Corps of Engineers approval so that it is ready for budget presentation for the next fiscal year. He then explained how the problem was discovered.

Vote – All ayes; motion carried.

At this time City Administrator Mandsager gave a presentation on a potential tax abatement program and areas.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the city currently has a Housing Tax Abatement program that is going very well and the Industrial Property Tax Abatement program and other commercial revitalization programs. He stated staff is simply looking to bring back a basic Commercial Tax Abatement program in two key areas – one along Grandview Avenue and the second along Park Avenue.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that the State Code has two schedules cities can use in their community's revitalization plan. He then talked about marketing the program and improving the use of the city's website. He stated he feels that having a commercial program would be valuable to the city, its residents, and new businesses.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the packet provided with the agenda has a number of additional resources as well as maps showing the two proposed areas. He stated a number of communities have had great success with this type of program.

City Administrator Mandsager stated that before going any further and before contacting the city's bond counsel, he wanted to make sure it was the consensus of City Council to move forward on this program.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the Urban Revitalization area will overlap with the Urban Renewal Area but would not prohibit the use of tax increment financing; however, TIF and the tax abatement program could not be used together.

There were questions and comments from City Council that were addressed by staff.

There was a consensus from City Council to move forward with the proposed Commercial Tax Abatement program. There was also discussion on possible marketing tools.

Under comments, Councilmember Saucedo stated he had been present while RAGBRAI riders were coming into the city and he was completely overwhelmed by the job done by staff, the Chamber and all the volunteers to make this event such a success. He stated he had talked with several riders who talked about how great our city is. He thanked staff, local companies, the Chamber, and all the volunteers who helped during this event.

Councilmember Saucedo stated he was in Kansas City recently and spoke with a woman who was familiar with the city's soccer complex. He said she told him she feels the City of Muscatine has one of the greatest soccer complexes in the Midwest. He thanked Rich Klimes and his staff for doing such a great job.

Councilmember Rehwaldt echoed Councilmember Saucedo's comments about RAGBRAI. He stated that everyone did a great job.

Councilmember Rehwaldt, speaking in reference to the soccer complex, stated that City Engineer Jim Edgmond who had been employed at Stanley Consultants during the development of the complex was involved with its construction.

City Administrator Mandsager thanked the RAGBRAI organizers, all the volunteers, and city staff for making it such a huge success. He stated it was a hugely successful weekend. He also thanked the residents of Muscatine for their patience.

Mayor Broderson recognized Janet Morrow for her months of hard work on RAGBRAI as well as staff and all the volunteers who helped.

Mayor Broderson thanked Dave Cooney who planted two trees at the arboretum this past weekend. She stated that Tree #99 was in honor of our veterans and Tree #100 was to celebrate RAGBRAI. She stated there are plaques marking the trees. She stated she assisted him with the planting.

Mayor Broderson stated she recently spent an afternoon with Congressman Dave Loebsack talking about job training.

Mayor Broderson stated she has been working with the Goodwill and the Home Career Center on a job fair to be held at the MCSA on August 26, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mayor Broderson stated the Commission for Region 9 Transportation is working on its transportation plan and will be holding a meeting on August 10, 2016 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Musser Public Library. She stated they are asking residents to stop by and give them information on the type of transportation they utilize which will be incorporated into the Region 9 Plan.

Mayor Broderson stated her Coffee with the Mayor will be held in the First Ward at the Discovery Center on August 27, 2016 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

#23512. Councilmember Natvig move to go into Closed Session at 8:30 p.m. per Iowa Code 21.5 (j) to discuss proposed property acquisition. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Saucedo, Bynum, Harvey, and Spread. Motion carried.

Mayor Broderson called the Closed Session to order at 8:42 p.m. Councilmembers present were Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Saucedo, Bynum, Harvey, and Spread. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Community Development Director David Gobin, and Steve Boka.

#23513. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to leave Closed Session at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes: Councilmembers Rehwaldt, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Saucedo, Bynum, Harvey, and Spread. Motion carried.

Councilmember Spread moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Diana Broderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator