

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – December 9, 2010

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, December 9, 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 and Planning and Community Development Coordinator Jim Rudisill.

The first item pertaining to a request for nuisance control at the MP&W Power Plant was pulled from the agenda until a background check could be done on the applicant.

The next item was a presentation by Frank Kelly from Mobilizing Muscatine Excellence (MME). He gave a power point presentation outlining the purpose of MME, its activities to date and what it hopes to accomplish in the community. MME is a pilot program for Diamond Towns of America and is also part of the Muscatine Center for Non-Profits located at 129 W. 2nd Street in Muscatine.

Mr. Kelly stated the Muscatine Center for Non-Profits has approximately 22 groups involved with its facility.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked if it was time to combine all of the non-profit groups in town into one.

Mr. Kelly stated it is not time yet; however, it is time to talk.

Councilmember Natvig asked how MME measures its progress.

Mr. Kelly stated that perhaps it could be measured through its art shows, bilingual events, etc.

Councilmember Lange asked if there are monetary needs.

Mr. Kelly answered yes, adding funding is received from outside the community.

Tom Huber, also representing MME, stated there are costs for the not-for-profit center for things such as salaries, projects, etc.

Councilmember Roby thanked the group for their efforts.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor O'Brien stated a public hearing was being held to assess the status of housing rehabilitation activities funded through the 2009 CDBG program in the City of Muscatine.

Planning and Community Development Coordinator Jim Rudisill gave a brief explanation of the program and stated a public hearing is required during the two-year period of the program.

There were no oral or written petitions for or against the program.

#20386. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the public hearing be closed. Seconded by Councilmember Shihadeh. All ayes; motion carried.

Under comments, Councilmember Natvig complimented the city on the new website.

Councilmember Roby stated she was enjoying the new website as did Councilmember Lange.

Councilmember Bynum asked when Hershey Avenue would be open. He was told the target date was the end of December; however, it could be sooner.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated the website is up and running and that he would be taking photos at next week's meeting.

#20387. Councilmember Shihadeh moved to go into Closed Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss a proposed property purchase as well as pending legal matters. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes: LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

The Muscatine City Council went into Closed Session to discuss a proposed property purchase and pending legal matters. Present were Mayor Dick O'Brien and Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Parks and Recreation Director Rich Klimes, and Finance Director Nancy Lueck.

#20388. Councilmember Shihadeh moved to leave the closed session at 8:02 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried.

#20389. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:02 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator