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MUSCATINE CITY ADMINISTRATOR Gregg Mandsager (center) presents retiring City Council members Bob Bynum (left) and Scott Natvig (right) with a framed picture of Muscatine during a Farewell Reception in the City Council Chambers Thursday. Michael Rehwaldt could not attend the reception due to health concerns.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Bynum, Natvig, Rehwaldt terms of office expire at end of year

MUSCATINE, Iowa – It has been 12 years since Bob Bynum first sat in the Fourth Ward chair on the Muscatine City Council dais. Bynum remembers all the good things that happened in the City of Muscatine over his three terms of office.

“There have been a lot of good things that have happened in this community over those 12 years,” Bynum said. “A lot of good things from what Mayor O’Brien started back 12 years ago, things that really formed my admiration for him, through the many good things that A.J. Johnson did and the many positives that Gregg (Mandsager) has done for this city.”

Bynum served as Major Pro Tem for the past two years, a time that he really does not want to talk about, but a time where his dedication to the city as a whole and his leadership shined.

“There has been a lot of bumps in the road that I really do not want to talk about right now,” Bynum said. “Eventually the truth of what happened will come to light. It is amazing that in the last 12 months we have been able to accomplish as much as we have.”

Scott Natvig has served two terms as an at-large member of the Muscatine City Council but lost his bid for a third term in November.

“Much has been accomplished while I have had the privilege of serving on the Muscatine City Council,” Natvig said. “Progress has been made in many areas including business expansion



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and investment, major roadway upgrades, downtown revitalization, expanded amenities, cultural improvements, and regulatory compliance.”

There are more than a few of the projects that Natvig is proud to have been a part of including the corridor upgrade, Cedar/Colorado/Mulberry improvements, the new public library and community center, the building of a four-diamond hotel, completion of many additional miles of trails, and a modern theatre complex.

“All of these improvements have been accomplished without increasing the City’s tax levy while steadily increasing the General Fund balance,” Natvig said. “And none of the accomplishments and progress over recent years could have been achieved without the team efforts of Council, Staff, and dedicated, loyal City employees.”

Bynum is especially proud of the work on the riverfront, the cooperation with the railroad, and the many businesses that have come to Muscatine or have been here for generations making a commitment to Muscatine.

Natvig and Bynum attended reception Thursday in the City Council chambers where Bynum was honored by the Muscatine Fire Department with the presentation of his own official fire department helmet. Each also received a framed picture from the City of Muscatine which those in attendance were able to write good will messages on.

“It great to hear how much people appreciate you because several months ago you were getting beat up,” Bynum said.

Natvig believes his time on council was well spent but he is ready to take advantage of full retirement.



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“Reflecting back, eight years on Council translates to a lot of meetings,” Natvig said noting that is about 275 Council meetings and an additional 150 budget or committee meetings. “Then there are hundreds of phone calls, thousands of emails, and countless hours studying agendas and asking questions.”

If marked by progress, he said, it was time well spent.

The third council member whose term expires at the end of the current calendar year is Michael Rehwaldt who was unable to attend the reception or the city council meeting Thursday due to health issues. Rehwaldt served one term (four years) as the Second Ward representative and lost his bid for a second term in November.

Rehwaldt feels the combination of the private sector commitment to Muscatine and the public sector vision for the future continue a tradition that goes back to the founding of Muscatine on the banks of the Mississippi River.

“There is so much positive going on in Muscatine right now that it is truly wonderful,” Rehwaldt said. “It is phenomenal the amount of investment that is being made in our community right now.”

Rehwaldt noted that Muscatine has a long history of prosperity from business development and investment beginning with the lumber industry, into the button factories, and the industrial entrepreneurs of the late 1940s and 1950s.

“The container port with all of the logistical support needed is our next ticket to prosperity,” Rehwaldt said. “And this is just the beginning. My time on the council may have been short but we have seen this city accomplish so much to benefit present and future residents. I am proud to have had even a small part in seeing this community continue to grow and prosper.”



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The three new members of the council take their seats on January 1, 2018.

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