

City of Muscatine
In-Depth City Council Minutes
6:00 p.m. April 14, 2022

Mayor Bark called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, April 14, 2022 to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Froelich, Jindrich, Osborne, Gordon, Brockert, Lewis and Hopkins.

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

Parks and Recreation Director Rich Klimes gave a presentation regarding the City of Muscatine's Deer Management. Mr. Klimes stated this program aligns with the City Council goals by addressing excellent customer service, and safety in our community. Mr. Klimes gave an overview of the statistics from the City regarding the number of accidents involving deer, the number of deer harvested during the annual City Deer Hunt and stated that the deer population has been steadily decreasing.

Mr. Klimes stated that at this time the City Code only allows for hunting in City limits to be done on private property of a certain acreage and tonight's vision would be to understand where City Council stands on the possibility of allowing deer hunting on City owned properties.

There was discussing between staff and Council regarding the location of properties proposed, who would be allowed to hunt on said properties, the testing and licensing process prior to the hunt and public input from residents that enjoy the deer.

Mr. Klimes stated if Council consents to move forward, McKee Park near White Distribution and Houser Hill (Corner of Houser and Hershey) would be two locations that would be proposed.

Councilmember Jindrich stated both locations would be great spots and had suggestions regarding only allowing hunters that had not shot a deer in the past year to apply to hunt on the City properties.

Councilmember Gordon stated she did not feel the need to thin out the deer population any more.

Councilmember Brockert stated she did not agree with adding City Property to the hunt.

There was a consensus with City Council for staff to move forward with a proposal to allow for deer hunting on certain City owned parcels.

Parks and Recreation Director, Rich Klimes then gave a presentation on the updates to the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine South End Improvement Fund Projects. Mr. Klimes started by stating that most of the bidding and awarding of contracts has been done and that it is time to start digging.

Mr. Klimes shared the following proposed timeline stating that these could change due to shipping and supply shortages.

- Shelters in Taylor, Musser and Kent Stein Parks-June 2022
- Taylor Park Restroom Facility - June 2022
- Taylor Park Site – parking, courts, utilities - July 2022
- Taylor Park Splashpad – July 2022
- Playgrounds – Musser, Taylor and Sunset Park –
- HAWK Street Crossing – June 2022
- Taylor Park Misc Items – Sidewalk, Landscaping, Benches, Drinking Fountains, Etc. July 2022
- Taylor Park Lighting – June 2022

Councilmember Lewis had questions regarding the proposed move of a shelter to the Municipal Golf Course that was addressed by Mr. Klimes stating that it was still in the plans.

The final presentation of the night was given by Lt. David O'Connor, regarding Violent Crime Statistics in the City of Muscatine. Mr. O'Connor shared some of the crime statistics from the past few years and how the addition of community policing and special units has led to a decrease in the number of arrests. Mr. O'Connor stated a few of the special units included bike patrol, park and walk, street crimes unit, the school resource officers and the addition of Coffee with a Cop at local businesses.

Councilmember Froelich stated he has heard many positive comments regarding the officers patrolling on foot in the downtown area.

Councilmember Jindrich addressed the public and corrected a statement he had made in error at the previous Council meeting regarding the Humane Society and Pit Bull dogs.

Councilmember Hopkins moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:58 p.m.