

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. –March 21, 2019

Mayor Pro Tem Brackett called the City Council meeting for Thursday, March 21, 2019, to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Councilmembers Spread, Harvey, Brockert, Saucedo, Brackett, Fitzgerald and Malcolm.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Fitzgerald, Seconded by Councilmember Spread moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Item 6 A: Approval of City Council Minutes
- Item 9 A: From the Mayor
- Items 12 A-F: Receive and File
- Bills for Approval totaling \$1,246,737.98

Vote – 7 ayes, motion carried.

Public Hearing

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Brackett stated this public hearing concerns the annual application for state and federal transit funding.

There were no comments, oral or written, from citizens regarding this public hearing.

Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the public hearing to be closed, seconded by Councilmember Spread.

Vote – All Ayes; motion carried

From the Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Brackett read and signed a proclamation for Arbor Day.

Item 11A

Councilmember Harvey moved to waive the statutory rule requiring ordinances to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which said Franchise Fee Ordinance is to be finally passed. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

Councilmember Brackett stated he feels the process should be followed through with all readings, to allow public to give their input and response.

Vote – 6 Ayes; 1 Nay (Brackett) motion carried.

Councilmember Spread moved to Adopt an Ordinance Increasing Utility Franchise Fee on first and final reading and directed for its publication as required by law. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

There were questions and comments from City Council regarding when the Utility Franchise Fee would be considered again that were addressed by Finance Director Nancy Lueck. Ms. Lueck stated that it would be discussed again at next year's budget sessions.

Vote – 7 Ayes; motion carried.

Item 11B

Councilmember Fitzgerald, moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0065, approving the annual application for State and Federal transit funds. Seconded by Councilmember Brockert.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11C

Councilmember Fitzgerald, moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0066, setting a public hearing on April 18, 2019, for the Urban Renewal Plan Amendments. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11D

Councilmember Harvey moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0067, approving the combined preliminary/final plat for Blessings Point Subdivision. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried

Item 11E

Councilmember Saucedo moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0068 approving amendments to the non-union employee pay plan to be effective March 22, 2019. Seconded by Councilmember Spread.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11F

Councilmember Brockert moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0069 setting a public hearing on April 4, 2019, for utility easement vacation for 3435 Clermont Drive. Seconded by Councilmember Malcolm.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11G

Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to adopt Resolution #2019-0070, authorizing the assessment of unpaid nuisance abatement costs to private properties in the amount of \$7,286.30. Seconded by Councilmember Brockert.

Councilmember Malcolm asked that City Council receive a report of the total amounts collected from the assessments to private properties.

Ms. Lueck stated that many are paid through taxes and the City receives a monthly receipt from the County for the amounts collected.

Councilmember Brackett asked that a quarterly or bi-annual report be prepared showing the amount outstanding and amounts collected.

There was discussion between Council members regarding the process and how the abatement fees sometimes are not paid for years until the house is sold, and the fact that many of the houses are owned by mortgage companies and banks.

Councilmember Harvey stated he was pleased to see the City staying on top of these fees and assessing them monthly to the private properties.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Item 11H

Councilmember Spread moved to approve request #2019-0071, accepting transit funding from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program for the purchase of two light duty transit buses. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

Councilmember Malcolm had questions regarding the buses that were to be purchased with these funds that were addressed by Transit Supervisor Amy Fortenbacher.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried

Item 11I

Councilmember Harvey moved to approve request #2019-0072, for a Task Order and Agreement for technical services from Strand Associates to provide treatment plant rerating services at a cost of \$20,000. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald.

Councilmember Harvey asked that Water Pollution Control Plant Manager Jon Koch give a background on rerating services.

Mr. Koch stated this would rate the WPCP capacity for accommodating waste. The intent of the study is to show that the WPCP has the capacity to accept new businesses that may come to town. Mr. Koch stated that the City would apply for a permit in accordance to what the study shows.

Vote – 7 ayes; motion carried.

Communication-Council Members

Councilmember Spread stated there have been more incidents of the trains blocking crossings recently. He questioned the possibility of an overpass in the future as well as being open to other suggestions to solve the issues.

Councilmember Harvey stated that citizens had been trapped at Riverside Parking area due to the trains blocking the crossings.

Councilmember Brockert stated that at her Neighbors Meeting there were concerns with the kids being out of school and riding skateboards on streets and in parking lots.

Councilmember Malcolm citizens to be aware and make plans accordingly for the upcoming flood projection.

Councilmember Brackett stated that Public Works would be holding special Leaf pick up days and to watch the city website for dates.

Councilmember Brackett asked that City Engineer Jim Edmond give an update on the Flooding Issues on Lake Park Blvd.

Mr. Edmond stated that he had met with the owners of the four houses in that area for discussion. Mr. Edmond discussed multiple options that are being reviewed including buying of properties and making them into green space. He stated he is currently looking for funding options to help cover the costs.

City Engineer Edmond stated that on Tuesday Chestnut Street would be closed for a short time to complete repairs

Councilmember Brackett stated there was a hole in the road at 2nd and Iowa that he would like looked into.

Mr. Edmond stated he would have that checked.

Councilmember Brockert asked about the roadwork status at 2nd and Cedar Street.

Mr. Edmond stated they were waiting for concrete to cure and then it would be reopened.

Councilmember Harvey motioned for meeting to be adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Mayor Diana Broderson

City Administrator, Gregg Mandsager