

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – July 8, 2010

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, July 8, 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, Planning, Zoning and Building Safety Director Steve Boka, and Art Center Director Barb Christensen.

The first item on the agenda was a Convention & Visitors Bureau presentation. Heather Shoppa, representing the CVB, gave a power point presentation concerning the CVB's upcoming activities. She stated the CVB has been invited to set up a booth at the Iowa State Fair which will be an excellent opportunity to get the city's name out there and show what it has to offer in the way of tourism.

Councilmembers were in agreement that this is an excellent opportunity for the CVB and City of Muscatine.

The next item on the agenda was an overview of the art center's request to change the Registrar position from a ¾ time position to a full-time position. Art Center Director Barb Christensen reviewed her memo which outlined the basis of her request for this change. Mark Huddleston, a member of the Art Center Board of Trustees, was also available to answer questions from Council.

Councilmembers Shihadeh and Fitzgerald reiterated the importance of increased costs being covered by outside resources.

City Administrator Mandsager applauded the art center's efforts but noted his concerns relating to the budget and the timing of the request.

Ms. Christensen addressed the importance of the Registrar's position as it relates to the collections at the art center.

Councilmembers Shihadeh, Lange and Natvig agreed the request from the art center should be moved forward.

Up next on the agenda was an update on the proposed relocation of Fire Station #2. Fire Chief Jerry Ewers thanked City Council for the opportunity to make this presentation. Power points from both the Fire Department as well as from the architectural firm were presented.

Chief Ewers stated there was now an opportunity for an IJOBS II grant. He stated he would be submitting a notice of intent and would know within 10 days if the city will be invited to formally apply for grant funding.

Cheung Chan from the Invision architectural firm explained the site selection process, the building design and the phases available for completion of the proposed project.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked if it was wise to spend \$200,000 to secure \$1 million. He stated he was concerned about the timeframe and the number of projects coming up in 2012.

City Administrator Mandsager stated it is important the city continue to explore grant funding opportunities as well as prepare options to phase construction to meet minimum needs with the ability for future expansion.

Councilmember Bynum stated he felt the presentation was great. He encouraged Chief Ewers to keep exploring funding opportunities. He stated it is important to meet the needs of south end.

Councilmember Shihadeh stated he felt doing the project in phases was probably the best idea.

Councilmember Natvig asked about operational savings.

Chief Ewers stated at this point any grant funding received would be for capital costs. He stated operational costs have not been prepared.

Councilmember Lange, speaking in reference to the \$200,000, stated that sometimes money must be returned. He stated this project is worthy of being included in budget discussions. He stated this is a good-sized project. He asked if it is needed now, if it can be afforded, and if there are alternatives to remodeling the present facility. He stated the city has more pressing needs and that there is no need to rush into this project. He then asked how much needs to be spent to meet the needs of the south end and when does it need to be spent.

Councilmember Bynum responding to Councilmember Lange's comments stated the residents of the 4th Ward have the right to the same level of service as the rest of the community.

Councilmember Roby stated a lot of information was presented tonight. She stated she would like to wait and see what happens with the grant. In addition, she stated she would like further information on constructing the project in phases as well as information on remodeling the current site. She ended by saying she has no doubt there is a need for a better facility.

Councilmember LeRette stated this is a large and expensive project; however, something does need to be done. He talked about the city's growth and what can be done to keep costs down.

Mayor O'Brien stated that everything the city does is money driven. He stated that a comprehensive plan needs to be re-established to assist in getting projects done.

Steve Boka, the city's Planning, Zoning and Building Safety Director, then gave an update on airport lighting. He summarized the issues and then outlined the problems on the main runway. He stated there are five miles of wiring at the airport.

Mr. Boka stated he is seeking Council's approval to advance this item in the airport's CIP. He stated he would like to seek federal funding to move from direct burial to piping of the wiring.

Mr. Boka then discussed the wildlife mitigation program with the state and future budget costs.

Mr. Boka stated that tonight he is seeking authorization to reprioritize the five-year CIP.

There was discussion concerning other issues at the airport.

#21162. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the modification of the five-year Airport CIP. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

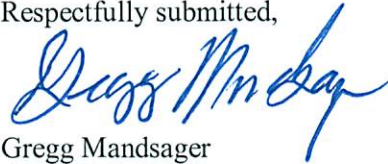
The final item on the agenda concerned the amendment to the ordinance pertaining to municipal infractions. The proposed ordinance was reviewed with Council. It will be placed on the July 15, 2010 agenda for Council's consideration and action.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette stated he was excited about the CVB's Iowa State Fair opportunity.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked if Mississippi Drive will be open on July 12, 2010. City Administrator Mandsager stated he has not heard differently.

#21163. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:07 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregg Mandsager", written in a cursive style.

Gregg Mandsager
City Administrator