

City of Muscatine  
In-Depth City Council Minutes  
7:00 p.m. – January 13, 2022

Mayor Bark called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, January 13, 2022, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Froelich, Jindrich, Osborne, Gordon, Brockert, Lewis and Hopkins.

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Hopkins moved to approve the second reading of an ordinance revising Title 10, Chapter 4-FP Flood Plain District and Chapter 5-FC Flood Channel (floodway) District. Seconded by Councilmember Froelich. Vote Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Motion carried.

Councilmember Gordon moved to adopt resolution approving establishing a moratorium on portions of Title 6, Chapter 9 of the Code of the City of Muscatine related to keeping of pit bulls. Seconded by Councilmember Lewis.

Rory Ball – 309 ½ Grandview Ave. came to share with Council that he had 2 pit bull that he had to get rid of because of the current ban and stated he did not know anything about the ban.

Vanessa Lopez – 400 Peachtree Street was present to share with City council her appreciation in taking the beginning steps to remove the pit bull ban and for listening to the citizens. Ms. Lopez stated that dogs should be judged individually not by their breed.

Caleb Hopkins – 707 Woodland Way was present to share his story regarding getting a citation for having a pit bull. Mr. Hopkins stated his dog is not a pit bull and they are awaiting DNA test results. Mr. Hopkins stated his dog is 15 years old and has never caused any trouble in the 12 years he has had him. Mr. Hopkins concerns are that dogs are being judged for being a breed that they are not and that all dogs should be judged by their individual actions.

Fay Sanchez – 404 Broadway Street was present to encourage City Councilmembers to vote for what the community is asking. Ms. Sanchez stated by doing this it would restore community faith in the City Council.

Freedom Malik – 1836 Hershey Ave stated she appreciated City Council for making the decision to put forth this moratorium to give time for more in-depth discussion and research.

Rebecca Davis – 1715 Bagdad Drive came to state she had gotten her children a new puppy for Christmas and now the puppy is going to be taken away from them. She states families are being devastated by this code.

Max Kauffman 1069 Foster Street shared his comparison between Pit Bull Dogs and Guns. That the responsibility falls on the owner.

Kelsie Brackett – 2817 Mulberry Avenue thanked the City Council for bringing forward this moratorium while working on the code. Mr. Brackett states that bad dogs come from bad training.

Councilmember Gordon stated the City staff is working on animal regulation codes and trying to bring them more current. Ms. Gordon states animal regulations have not been kept up with modern technology.

Councilmember Jindrich stated he is not in favor of the moratorium with all the available data regarding the damage that can and has been done by Pit Bull Breeds. Mr. Jindrich stated he would like to see the ban maintained.

Councilmember Lewis stated the Council needs to listen to what the citizens want. She also stated she talked to her vet and was given information regarding breed specific bans not working, and that dangerous and vicious bans are more effective.

Councilmember Froelich stated he was not in favor of suspending a City Code without going through the proper channels of changing code and having three readings.

Councilmember Osborne stated he wanted citizens to know they had been heard.

Vote: Ayes 5, Nays; 2 (Jindrich, Froelich) Motion carried

City Administrator Carol well gave a presentation regarding the proposed Riverfront Amphitheater. Ms. Webb's presentation included an update on the design, fund raising, management of programming and types of activities anticipated using the structure.

Public Works Director Brian Stineman gave an update on information received from the watershed study of Lake Park Blvd. Mr. Stineman shared multiple options and the effectiveness of each for reducing flooding. Mr. Stineman stated none of the options would eliminate the flooding completely but would make a significant difference.

City Administrator Carol Webb shared information regarding the animal control regulations that she has been working on at City Council's request. There was discussion among City Councilmembers regarding regulations including dangerous and vicious animals, tethering of dogs, penalty enforcement and licensing of animals. Ms. Webb stated she would try to have something to bring back to the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilmember Hopkins moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Brad Bark, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Carol Webb, City Administrator