

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – April 11, 2019

Mayor Diana Broderson called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, April 11, 2019, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Spread, Harvey, Brockert, Saucedo, Brackett and Fitzgerald. Councilmember Malcolm was absent.

First on the agenda was an introduction to SUDAS (State Urban Design and Specifications) standards by City Engineer Jim Edgmond. Mr. Edgmond stated this is a way to make a standard for all development within the City. He states staff will be going through all the SUDAS standards and pulling the parts they feel would be best for the City to adopt and bringing an update to City Council at each in-depth. The first one discussed was street design for storm water control.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the MAARVE (Muscatine Area Resource Recovery for Vehicles and Energy) Program. Water Resource and Recovery Director Jon Koch gave a presentation on the processes that the waste would go through and explained the changes that had been made to the development plan to reduce costs before the project goes out for bid. There were questions from City Council regarding safety measures in place, odors coming from the waste, and if animal rendering products would be allowed that were addressed by Mr. Koch. Mr. Koch also described two digesters he has seen working at other locations.

The next discussion item was a review of a Request for Proposal for the seven acres of property located at Carver Corner. Community Development Director Jodi Royal-Goodwin stated this is a piece of prime property that the City has worked 20 years to acquire. The City would like to have an appealing gateway from the South end to the Downtown at this location. There were questions from City Council regarding what would be built on the space, if one developer would get the whole seven acres, how much would be green space, and if there would be incentives involved that were all addressed by Ms. Royal-Goodwin.

Ms. Royal-Goodwin states with City Council's approval, the next step would be to finalize the RFP and send it to a list of applicants as well as to the public.

The final item on the agenda was a presentation by Ann Meeker, 101 Mississippi Drive, Muscatine, regarding the placement of a Peace Park at the Carver Corner location in Muscatine. Ms. Meeker discussed how Peace Parks were developed in the past and gave examples of several existing Peace Parks. Ms. Meeker suggests that the Peace Park be built to expand on Muscatine's legacy of Alexander Clark and Muscatine's relationship with China.

Councilmember Brackett stated he would like to see proposals that would incorporate a Peace Park as well as a development that would promote economic growth for Muscatine.

Communication from City Council

Councilmember Brockert stated that the Riverbend Neighborhood would meet at 7 p.m. on Monday at fire station #2.

Councilmember Brockert asked City Engineer Jim Edgmond how the City Levee was holding up.

Mr. Edgmond stated the water level is falling and there are no problems noted with the levee.

Councilmember Saucedo asked Community Development Director Jodi Royal-Goodwin to give clarification on the storm shelter requirements for the proposed new STEM Center at the High School.

Mr. Royal-Goodwin stated the City has been working with the School District on Modifications to the Center to reduce the costs but the City is not willing to modify safety requirements. There were discussions regarding other school buildings that have been built without a storm shelter and Ms. Royal-Goodwin stated these were built prior to this code being in place. There were questions regarding the new VanHeck Center built at the High school not having a storm shelter. Ms. Royal-Goodwin stated it does not pertain to gym structures.

Councilmember Saucedo asked about the possibility of changing the code and would like this put on a future council meeting for discussion.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager stated he wanted it clear that the State Fire Marshall has not exempted Muscatine from this requirement as stated at the School Board Meeting.

Mayor Broderson stated the Mayor's Youth Job Fair would be held Monday at Muscatine High School.

Councilmember Brackett motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator