

City of Muscatine
In-Depth City Council Minutes
Council Chambers - 7:00 p.m. – March 12, 2020

Mayor Diana Broderson called the City Council In-Depth meeting for Thursday, March 12, 2020 to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Hopkins, Froelich Malcolm, Gordon, Brockert, Jindrich and Brackett.

Councilmember Jindrich moved to adopt Resolution #2020-0109, setting a public hearing on the Annual Application for State and Federal Transit Funds. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Motion carried.

Andrew Fangman, Assistant Community Development Director, presented an overview of the proposed changes to the Rental Housing Code for the City of Muscatine. Mr. Fangman stated this process was being done to simplify the rental licensing process, make standards easier to understand, update the standards and to improve customer satisfaction with the process.

Mr. Fangman discussed a few of the changes that will be made with this proposal including the removal of annual registration certificate, removal of self-inspections and added fees for failure to maintain current information on file with the City of Muscatine.

Mr. Fangman briefly discussed the rental facility standards and answered questions that City Council presented regarding the placement and requirements of smoke detectors in home and ruled regarding dogs in rental facilities.

There was a consensus to move forward with the proposed housing code changes.

Brian Stineman, Public Works Director, shared updated flood predictions and planning information to City Council. Mr. Stineman demonstrated how to navigate the City of Muscatine webpage to gain information regarding flood predictions and actual data regarding river levels. Mr. Stineman discussed the possibility of a removable flood wall and stated research is being done on effectiveness and cost.

City Council had questions regarding help for the downtown businesses during flooding and asked what the City could do for them.

Mr. Stineman explained the changes to the papoose lift station gate should help a great deal with the downtown businesses' flooding issues.

Brad Bark, 825 Robin Road, Gary Dierks, 119 Mississippi Drive and Dave Armstrong, Mississippi Brew, were all present to share concerns with flooding at their business locations. They all stated they appreciated the help they did receive but would like the City to provide more help during the flooding.

City Council asked Mr. Stineman to propose a menu of services and costs that the City could potentially help these business owners during the time of flooding and bring it back to City Council.

Councilmember Malcolm proposed the City develop a plan that allows an Incident Commander the ability to dispatch City of Muscatine Transit for the purpose of transportation or temporary refuse during an emergency situation. There was discussion among City Council and a consensus was reached to have a process created and brought to Council for approval.

Councilmember Malcolm proposed signs being placed at the intersection of Fulliam Street and Houser Street restricting left hand turns Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m-9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. There was discussion among City Council regarding placement of signs, cost of signs and enforcement of no left turns.

Brian Stineman, Public Works Director, stated he would put together a resolution and bring it back to Council at the next meeting.

Karl Reichert, Dave Metz, Duffy Defranz, Bob Sinkler and Mary Byers were present to discuss the possibility of a Port Authority for Muscatine and encouraged the City of Muscatine to move forward to implement a plan on becoming a Port Authority.

Councilmember Brackett motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Diana Broderson, Mayor

Gregg Jenkins, Interim City Administrator