

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Via Conference Call – 7:00 p.m. – March 19, 2020

Mayor Broderson called the City Council meeting for Thursday March 19, 2020, to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Councilmembers Hopkins, Malcolm, Brockert, and Brackett. Councilmembers Jindrich and Froelich joined at 7:06 p.m. and Councilmember Gordon joined at 7:12 p.m.

This meeting was held via conference call due to the meeting regulations to reduce the spread of the COVID-19.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Brackett, Seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Items 6 A-B: Approval of City Council Minutes
- Items 8 A-H: Petitions and Communication
- Items 12 A-B: Receive and File
- Bills for Approval totaling \$1,926,244.83

Vote: Ayes-4, Nays -0, Motion carried (Gordon, Jindrich and Froelich not present)

Councilmember Brackett motioned the Public Hearings for Amendment #1 to the 2019/2020 Budget and for Approving the 2020/2021 City of Muscatine Budgets were tabled until the next meeting due to technical issues with the conference call and public having trouble signing in to meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Brockert. It was stated that the deadline for turning in approved budget documents had been extended.

Public Hearing C was pulled for lack of information.

From the City Administrator

Items A and B were pulled due to public hearings being tabled.

Item C was pulled due to public hearing C being pulled for lack of information.

Item 11D:

Councilmember Jindrich moved to adopt Resolution #2020-0112, authorizing the assessment of unpaid nuisance abatement costs to private properties. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

Vote: Ayes – 6, Nays – 0, Motion carried (Councilmember Gordon not present)

Item 11E:

Councilmember Froelich moved to adopt Resolution #2020-0113, setting a public hearing for April 2, 2020 regarding the vacation of a portion of alley right of way located in block 29 of the City of Muscatine. Seconded by Councilmember Brockert.

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

Item 11F:

Councilmember Hopkins moved to adopt Resolution #2020-0114, approving the final plat of Grandview Subdivision. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

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

Item 11G:

Councilmember Malcolm moved to adopt Request#2020-0115, approving the installation of signs stating “No Left Turn” at the intersection of Houser and Fulliam. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

Police Chief Talkington stated that only one sign needed to be place on Fulliam for turning left onto Houser Street.

Councilmember Brackett motioned to amend the request that only one sign be purchased and to direct staff to not install until school is back in session. Seconded by Councilmember Malcolm.

Phil Fitzgerald, 3306 Mulberry Ave, was present to suggest this topic be tabled until a public session could be held.

Amendment Vote: Ayes – 5, Nays – 2, (Gordon, Hopkins) Motion carried

Original Request: Ayes – 5, Nays – 2, (Gordon, Hopkins) Motion carried

Item 11H:

Councilmember Jindrich moved to approve Request # 2020-0116, for the issuance of a purchase order to Vohne Liche Kennels in the amount of \$17,255.00, for the purchase of a new K-9 Dog to be used by the Muscatine Police Department. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

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

Item 11I:

Councilmember Jindrich moved to approve Request # 2020-0117, for an Intergovernmental Transfer of Public Funds Agreement between the Department of Human Services and the City of Muscatine Iowa. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

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

Item 11J:

There was discussion among City Council regarding closing all City of Muscatine buildings to the public during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Councilmember Brackett stated it is necessary to be able to serve the community and to protect the staff. He stated residents need to have options available for communicating with City staff.

Mayor Broderson stated that staff has been working on solutions for this situation.

Councilmember Malcolm questions what would happen with parking enforcement and public inspections during this time. He stated restaurants have requested parking spaces in front of their businesses for customers to pick up orders.

Finance Director Nancy Lueck stated that there would be some parking restrictions but they were working with the public and business owners to ensure responsible parking.

There was a consensus with City Council to Close City Buildings to the public.

Adam Thompson, 409 Park Avenue, was present to share that the Chamber of Commerce was working to advocate for downtown businesses during the COVID-19 and that they are willing to pull resources together with the City to help in any way they can.

Brett Bowling 903 E.2nd Street Apt 3B was present to share his concerns about the roundabout at Mulberry and 2nd Street.

Councilmember Jindrich requested that the Pit Bull ban scheduled for the April 9th meeting be postponed until the first in-depth meeting that can be held in City Hall Council Chambers.

City Council members encouraged the citizens to practice social distancing, wash hands frequently and to take other people into consideration. They also encouraged citizens to use the curbside pickup and support the local businesses that have been affected.

Councilmember Brackett moved to adjourn meeting at 7:58 p.m.

ALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECORDINGS CAN BE WATCHED ON THE CITY OF MUSCATINE YOUTUBE PAGE.

Mayor Diana Broderson

Attest:

Greg Jenkins, Interim City Administrator