

CITY OF MUSCATINE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
7:00 p.m. – June 4, 2020

This meeting was held electronically due to meeting regulations regarding the spread of COVID-19.

Mayor Broderson called the City Council meeting for Thursday June 4, 2020, to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Councilmembers Hopkins, Froelich, Malcolm, Gordon, Brockert, Jindrich and Brackett.

**Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Brackett seconded by Councilmember Gordon, moved the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- Items 6 A: Approval of City Council Minutes
  - Items 8 A-B: Petitions and Communications
  - Items 9 A-K: From the Mayor
  - Items 12 A-C: Receive and File
  - Bills Totaling \$1,900,463.46
- Vote: Ayes-7, Nays -0, Motion carried

**Public Hearing A:**

Mayor Broderson stated this public hearing concerns an Ordinance change correcting a drafting error in Section 10-22-1(B)(5)(b).

There were no oral or written petitions for or against the ordinance change.

Councilmember Brackett moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins.

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

**Public Hearing B:**

Mayor Broderson stated this public hearing concerns the vacation of a portion of the Cypress Street right of way adjacent to 1001 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

There were no oral or written petitions for or against the vacation of a portion of the right of way.

Councilmember Froelich moved to close this public hearing seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

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

## **From the City Administrator**

### **Item 11A:**

Councilmember Brockert moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2020-0201, correcting a drafting error in Section 10-22-1 (B)(5)(b). seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

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

### **Item 11B:**

Councilmember Gordon moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2020-0202, approving the vacation of a portion of the Cypress Street right-of-way, seconded by Councilmember Jindrich.

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

### **Item 11C:**

Councilmember Brackett moved to approve Request #2020-0203, approving the purchase and installation of light switches for Muscatine Organic Recycling Center. Seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

There were questions from City Council regarding the reason the switches were not purchased with the lights that were addressed by Water Resource Recovery Facility Director Jon Koch.

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

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### **Item 11D:**

Councilmember Hopkins moved to approve Request #2020-0205, declaring certain items as surplus and authorizing the sale of said items via an online auction. Seconded by Councilmember Jindrich.

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

### **Item 11E:**

Councilmember Froelich moved to approve Request #2020-0206, accepting the CARES Act Grant for the Airport Operations. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

Mayor Broderson stated she had already signed this agreement due to the impending deadline and states that because it was regarding COVID-19 she had authority under the Emergency Proclamation to go ahead and sign without Council Vote, however she was still asking for City Council approval of signature.

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

### **Item 11F:**

Councilmember Brockert moved to approve Request #2020-0207, for an amendment to the business office operations agreement between the city of Muscatine and Greenwood Cemetery. Seconded by Councilmember Jindrich.

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

### **Item 11G:**

Councilmember Brackett moved to approve Request #2020-0208, for an amendment to the retail sales and services agreement Lease between the City of Muscatine and Greenwood Cemetery. Seconded by Councilmember Hopkins.

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

### **Item 11H:**

Councilmember Brockert moved to approve Request #2020-0209, approving the ambulance fee schedule. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett.

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

11I:

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an updated presentation regarding the Revenue Losses due to the COVID -19 Pandemic and recommendations to help alleviate the loss.

There was discussion among City Councilmembers regarding projects, programs and new hires that could be deferred until a later date to help with the deficit.

There was discussion among City Council members regarding the City employee merit increases and how they would be handled, possible spending freeze until new City Administrator has been hired, and discussion regarding seasonal employees.

There was consensus with City Councilmembers to set a special meeting for June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. to give staff time to look at the budget and prepare a plan going forward to reduce spending and to further discuss what projects and programs could be deferred and to make a plan for awarding the merit increases to eligible employees.

11J.

Human Resources Manager, Stephanie Romagnoli, presented to City Council the plan for reopening City Hall on June 8<sup>th</sup>. She shared the various precautions that had been put into place for the protection of the City Employees as well as citizens entering City Hall.

Ms. Romagnoli then shared several options for arranging City Council Chambers in an effort to keep Councilmembers social distancing.

There was consensus among City Council to Open City Hall to the public with restrictions, and to continue with Virtual meetings for City Council through June and to re-evaluate at the July 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting.

Councilmember Brackett moved to enter Closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Seconded by Councilmember Hopkins.

Vote: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Motion carried.

Mayor Broderson called the closed session to order at 8:51 P.M. Present were Mayor Broderson, Councilmembers Hopkins, Froelich, Malcolm, Gordon, Brockert, Jindrich and Brackett. Also present were Interim City Administrator Greg Jenkins and Administrative Secretary Cinda Hilger.

Councilmember Brackett moved to leave close Session at 10:07 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Froelich.

Vote: Ayes 7, Nays 0, motion carried.

Councilmember Brockert moved the meeting be adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

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

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Mayor Diana Broderson

Attest:

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Greg Jenkins, Interim City Administrator