

CITY OF MUSCATINE
REGULAR MONTHLY SESSION OF CITY COUNCIL
Council Chambers - February 20, 1986 - 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Richard Waltman.

Roll Call: Councilmembers York, Harder, Sayles, Phillips, Amerine, Powell, and Kemp.

Mayor Waltman gave the opening prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

#9411. Councilmember Kemp moved the minutes of the February 6, 1986 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Seconded by Councilmember Amerine. All ayes; motion carried.

#9412. Councilmember Powell moved the request for a new Class B Beer Permit for Pablo's, 207 E. 2nd St. - Paul G. Casas, be tabled until the March 6th Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Sayles. All ayes; motion carried.

Soren Wolff, City Administrator, stated that a request had been received from Sun Mart, 807 Grandview Ave., for a new Class E Beer and Wine Permit, and renewal of the store's Sunday Sales Permit. He recommended they be approved.

#9413. Councilmember Amerine moved the request be approved. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips. All ayes; motion carried.

#9414. Councilmember York moved the request from the March of Dimes to use the public right-of-way for its annual Walk America be approved with the provision traffic control be coordinated with the Police Department. Seconded by Councilmember Sayles. All ayes; motion carried.

#9415. Councilmember Powell moved that the City Administrator and Parks and Recreation Director, with the assistance of the Levee Advisory Commission, be directed to renegotiate the proposed lease for TIMarina. Seconded by Councilmember Amerine. All ayes; motion carried.

#9416. Councilmember Amerine moved the lawsuit by Mary Lucille Lessenger be referred to the City Attorney and insurance company. Seconded by Councilmember Kemp. All ayes; motion carried.

Mayor Waltman recommended the appointment of Bill Durst, 1903 Lucas St., to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and the reappointment of Robert Page, 515 Maiden Lane, to the Civil Service Commission be approved.

#9417. Councilmember York moved the appointments be approved. Seconded by Councilmember Amerine. All ayes; motion carried.

#9418. Councilmember Amerine moved the resolution be adopted setting a public hearing for March 6, 1986, to consider an amendment to the City's Flood Control Ordinance. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips. All ayes: Councilmembers York, Harder, Sayles, Phillips, Amerine, Powell, and Kemp. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

#9419. Councilmember Amerine moved the request for a new access road, south of the entrance to Progress Park, be approved. Seconded by Councilmember Sayles.

City Administrator Wolff stated that Council had received the original permit application from the IDOT for the new access road on U.S. Highway 61 requested by John and Mary Beth Hoopes. He told Councilmembers that City staff has requested the relocated entrance be moved approximately 200 feet further south. He stated that the road would be located about 300 feet south of the Progress Park entrance, which would help with the safety at that intersection. Mr. Wolff informed Councilmembers that the request must now receive approval from the IDOT.

Vote - All ayes; motion carried.

Mayor Waltman informed the audience that City Administrator Wolff did not recommend the proposed traffic changes. He stated that requests for traffic changes come from various sources.

#9420. Councilmember Amerine moved to establish "No Parking" between Tipton Road and Bonnie Drive on Mulberry Avenue (encompassing Mulberry School). Seconded by Councilmember Sayles.

Councilmember Kemp stated he had received a comment from R.L. Casini, 3222 Mulberry Ave., regarding his concern about where people would park during Mulberry School's Fall Festival, open house, and other school events. Mr. Kemp added that the Fall Festival usually has a high attendance.

Councilmember Amerine questioned the possibility of acquiring some type of parking permit during the school events.

Councilmember Sayles felt it could be dangerous for children to get in and out of cars along Mulberry Avenue. She questioned the possibility of arranging parking at the high school parking lot, and running a shuttle service.

There was further discussion on parking in the high school parking lot.

City Administrator Wolff stated the initial complaint stemmed from persons parking on Mulberry Avenue, noting they were parking on the street surface. He told Councilmembers the possibility of parking in the church parking lot had been discussed as an alternative.

Mayor Waltman questioned the possibility of the church and school sharing parking lots, noting that the church occasionally has parking problems due to weddings, funerals, and church events.

Councilmember Kemp suggested that people be shuttled from the church to the school.

Councilmember Harder questioned if anyone from the school had contacted the City.

Councilmember Phillips stated she had talked with the PTO President and principal of the school. She questioned if parking could be allowed on the school side of Mulberry Avenue during school events.

Councilmember Kemp felt some type of parking plan should be submitted before a decision is made to establish no parking.

City Administrator Wolff stated he could make a request to the Superintendent of Schools to come up with some type of parking plan between the church and school.

Councilmember Amerine withdrew his motion to establish "No Parking" between Tipton Road and Bonnie Drive; Councilmember Sayles withdrew her second.

#9421. Councilmember York moved the request to establish "No Parking" between Tipton Road and Bonnie Drive be tabled until the March 6th Council Meeting and that the Traffic Committee be directed to contact the Superintendent of Schools to see if a solution can be reached between the school and church. Seconded by Councilmember Kemp.

Mayor Waltman questioned which church was being discussed. Randy Hill, Administrative Assistant, stated that Calvary Baptist was the church in question. Mr. Hill informed Councilmembers that if cars were allowed to park on either side of Mulberry Avenue, they would be required to park on the City right-of-way, which would be in violation of the City Code.

Vote - Six ayes: Councilmembers York, Harder, Sayles, Phillips, Powell, and Kemp. One nay: Councilmember Amerine. Motion carried.

#9422. Councilmember Sayles moved that "No Parking" be established between Mulberry Avenue and Cedar Street on Houser Street. Seconded by Councilmember York. All ayes; motion carried.

#9423. Councilmember Harder moved that the speed limit on Houser Street between Cedar and Lucas Streets remain at 25 miles per hour. Seconded by Councilmember York.

Carl Egger, 1304 Houser St., requested that the City not change the speed limit, and questioned if the City felt there was a public need to change the speed limit. He stated that the letter received from the City indicated that many people drive 26 to 40 miles per hour on Houser Street. He felt that people would drive even faster if the speed limit was increased.

Mr. Egger stated it was his understanding the City would like to keep truck traffic off City streets. He felt that increasing the speed limit would encourage truckers to use City streets more often. He added that increasing the speed limit would be inconsistent with the signs cautioning drivers that children are playing in the area. He also stated that a large number of residents from the county home cross Houser Street in order to go to the P-N-P Store on Lucas Street. Mr. Egger told Councilmembers that increasing the speed would only save a person 20 to 27 seconds.

Mr. Egger told Councilmembers it was difficult for him to back out of his driveway onto Houser Street. He added that increasing the speed limit would make it worse. He stated that he was concerned about the welfare of children in the area.

Councilmember Kemp stated that after next year, the Pickett School would no longer be on Houser Street.

City Administrator Wolff stated that many citizens receiving speeding tickets on Houser Street feel it is a speed trap. Mr. Egger felt that those complaining were not local residents.

Councilmember Kemp stated it is difficult to maintain a consistent speed of 25 miles per hour. He added that the speed limits on Houser Street range from 25 to 45 miles per hour, and questioned if a speed limit could be set within that range as a compromise.

Mayor Waltman stated that while driving on Houser Street, he found it necessary to keep his foot on the break in order to maintain the 25 mile per hour speed limit. He stated that signs in the City's school areas indicate that speed should be reduced to 25 miles per hour while school is in session, noting this could also be done at the Pickett School.

Councilmember Sayles stated she had talked with Ed George, Director of the Sheltered Workshop, who felt the speed limit should remain at 25 miles per hour to allow residents of the county home sufficient time to cross Houser Street.

Councilmember Harder stated that along Houser Street between Cedar and Lucas Streets, approximately twenty five of the residents must back onto the street from driveways. He added that there is a push-to-cross stoplight on that street, noting that many people do run the light when it is red. He felt that 25 miles per hour would be a safer speed.

Councilmember Kemp questioned what the speed limit was on Clay Street, noting there is also a push button light on that street. He was told the speed limit was 25 miles per hour.

Councilmember Harder felt that many residents would not want the speed limit increased in front of their homes.

Mayor Waltman stated that a few years ago there had been stoplights located on West 8th Street, near Washington School, Mulberry Avenue, and Park Avenue, near the old Lincoln School. He questioned why these lights were removed. City Attorney Allbee stated they were not full sequence lights.

Councilmember York stated that there are mothers in the area who actually see the light on Houser Street being ran during school hours. City Administrator Wolff informed Councilmembers that staff had been opposed to the installation of the light. He added there is no reason to run it on a regular cycle. He felt that out of habit, many drivers do not pay attention to it.

Councilmember Amerine questioned the wording of the motion. Mayor Waltman stated the motion was made to leave the speed limit on Houser Street between Cedar and Lucas Streets at 25 miles per hour. City Administrator stated that if this motion is defeated, it will be necessary to prepare an ordinance in consideration of changing the speed limit.

Vote - Three ayes: Councilmember Sayles, York, and Harder. Four nays: Councilmembers Kemp, Powell, Phillips, and Amerine. Motion failed.

#9424. Councilmember Kemp moved that staff be authorized to prepare an ordinance in consideration of changing the speed limit on Houser Street from 25 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. Seconded by Councilmember Powell. Vote: Four

ayes: Councilmembers Amerine, Kemp, Phillips, and Powell. Three nays: Councilmembers Sayles, Harder, and York. Motion carried.

Mayor Waltman stated an ordinance would be prepared.

#9425. Councilmember York moved the request from Muscatine Power & Water to grant them permission to cover the traffic signal lights at 2nd and Oak Streets for a trial period be tabled until the March 6th Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Kemp. All ayes; motion carried.

#9426. Councilmember Amerine moved the Civil Service Certification List for Recreational Groundskeeper be approved. Seconded by Councilmember York. All ayes; motion carried.

#9427. Councilmember Powell moved the resolution be adopted amending the resolution granting security interest in Heritage Cablevision with the deletion of City Bank, N.A. Seconded by Councilmember Amerine. All ayes: Councilmembers York, Harder, Sayles, Phillips, Amerine, Powell, and Kemp. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

City Administrator Wolff felt it would be beneficial if Councilmembers heard from the IDOT concerning the installation of a traffic signal on U.S. 61 By-Pass and Hershey Avenue.

Councilmember Powell stated he felt the information should be received and filed, adding there should be no rush to have the signal installed.

Councilmember Kemp stated he would like to meet with the IDOT.

Councilmember Harder questioned if the pending lawsuit had any bearing on inviting the IDOT to meet with the City Council. City Attorney Allbee stated it did not.

#9428. Councilmember York moved that items A-J be received and filed. Seconded by Councilmember Sayles. All ayes; motion carried.

#9429. Councilmember Kemp moved that bills totaling \$655,664.35 be received and filed and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to issue warrants for the same. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips. All ayes; motion carried.

Councilmember Harder requested an update on the Washington Street Bridge Project.

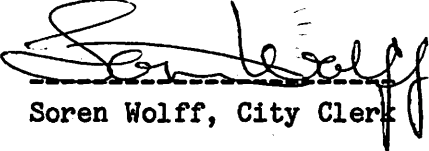
Ray Childs, City Engineer, stated that since the February 6th Council Meeting, the jacks were lowered and the bridge given time to settle. He told Councilmembers that workers began installing the steel for the barrier rail, the wing walls have been poured, and in approximately a week's time the barrier rail on the deck portion should be poured. Mr. Childs stated that in about another week the wing walls will be strong enough to begin preparations for the approaching slab work. He noted that there is currently three feet of frost in the ground outside the bridge's deck area. Councilmember Harder questioned if the bridge would be open to traffic in March. Mr. Childs stated that currently the key element is removing the frost from the ground. He noted it may be close to April before the bridge is opened to traffic.

#9430. Councilmember Powell moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilmember Kemp. All ayes; motion carried.

The meeting adjourned to a budget session at 8:30 p.m.


Richard Waltman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Soren Wolff, City Clerk