

MUSCATINE CITY COUNCIL/COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
April 25, 1996 - 5:30 p.m.

The City Council Informational Meeting and joint session with the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors was called to order on Thursday, April 25, 1996, at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Dick O'Brien. A roll was taken for the City Council, and the following Councilmembers were present: Dan Gray, Gary Gray, Phil Fitzgerald, Heckenliable, Freese, and Churchill. Staff present were City Administrator Johnson and Community Development Director Whittaker. Also present were Board of Supervisors' members Chad James, Sandy Huston, Dave Wisniewski, and John Oberhaus. Their staff present was Nancy Schreiber.

The first item on the agenda for consideration and discussion was the status of the Carver Pump building. Previously, the County had indicated that they might be willing to give the City a tax deed for this property because of unpaid taxes. The City Council had considered the offer and had accepted. The discussion at this meeting was to confirm that offer and to address any comments or concerns that the County might have. After general discussion, there was a consensus from the Board of Supervisors to proceed with this offer of the property to the City.

The next item for discussion was a general topic of "back taxes" and their affect on properties for public purposes. Background was given to those present concerning previous discussions between the City, County and School board staff concerning properties with back taxes due on them. It was the recommendation from the staff level that when available, and if appropriate, properties that are subject to back tax sales should be made available to any of the public bodies for public purpose projects. If there are no projects available, then the property should be offered for sale to get it back on the tax rolls. There was a general consensus once again that this is a position that both the City and the County were comfortable with.

The next item for consideration was a pending TIF review. City Administrator Johnson shared with the County the City's plan for the creation of an urban renewal district and the subsequent establishment of a TIF district within that urban renewal district. To comply with state law, the City must meet and confer with the other taxing bodies (County and School District) to gain their comments on the proposed establishment of a TIF district. City Administrator Johnson informed the County that City staff would be scheduling a time soon to discuss this matter at one of their board meetings in order to comply with the law.

The last item on the agenda for discussion was an update on the University Drive project. The City Administrator provided an update to the Board of Supervisors and Councilmembers on this. There were questions about the possibility of branching off of University Drive for a Ford Avenue extension and a possible extension over to Solomon Road. Following that discussion, there were questions concerning the extension of sanitary sewer to housing units outside the city limits and the alley paving next to the Muscatine County jail. City staff will address those issues and provide the update to board members.

At 6:15 p.m. the joint meeting between the City and County was adjourned.

Discussion continued between City Council and City staff on two items. The first item was a resolution to rescind a public hearing scheduled for May 2, 1996.

#14675. Councilmember Phil Fitzgerald moved to adopt the resolution to rescind a previously scheduled public hearing on an urban renewal area in Muscatine. Seconded by Councilmember Heckenliable. All ayes: Councilmembers Churchill, Freese, Dan Gray, Gary Gray, Heckenliable, and Phil Fitzgerald. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

The next item for City Council discussion was an organizational review of the Fire Department. Fire Chief Steve Dalbey was present to give an overview of the department's activities. City Administrator Johnson and Fire Chief Dalbey explained to City Council the operation of the Fire Department. In light of the City Council's hiring freeze, there are four positions within the Fire Department that will be subject to disability retirement or voluntary resignation and will need to be addressed. City Council focused their discussion on the organization of the Fire Department and its manning needs. There was also discussion from Councilmembers concerning the supplemental use of volunteers for the Fire Department to help in their activities.

City Council determined that they would take action on the vacancies for all City departments at the May 9, 1996 In-Depth Council meeting.

#14676. Councilmember Phil Fitzgerald moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilmember Heckenliable. All ayes; motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



A.J. Johnson
City Administrator