

CITY OF MUSCATINE

IN-DEPTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 1980

7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Schauland, Aldermen Platt, Koehrsen, Rada, Hilton, Kemp, Duncan and Waltman.

ALSO PRESENT: Soren Wolff, City Administrator, Craig Olson, Director of Water Pollution Control Plant, Ray Childs, City Engineer, and Joe Stevens, Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Ken Bright and Mr. Pat Mullin, representing Stanley consultants, made a presentation to City Council on the Sludge Handling and Disposal Study prepared by Stanley Consultants. Mr. Bright indicated the City had engaged their company to investigate the alternatives in the sludge disposal problem which the City had encountered since the heat treatment system was shut down. Mr. Bright stated the scope of the study was to investigate the most economical and efficient methods of treating and disposing of the sludge produced at the Muscatine Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Pat Mullin then outlined the highlights of the study. Members of City Council had previously received a copy of the study for their review. Mr. Mullin noted that sludge disposal is a major problem of the Muscatine Plant as the amount of sludge produced is equivalent to a population of 400,000 to 500,000. After reviewing the study with Council, Mr. Mullin indicated that lime stabilization in conjunction with spreading the sludge on farm property is the most efficient and economical way for the City to treat and dispose of the sludge. Mr. Mullin further noted that depending on the acceptability by area farmers, the use of sludge as a fertilizer would dictate the amount of land to be purchased by the City to efficiently and effectively handle the sludge operation. Mr. Mullin indicated that approximately 500 acres of land would be needed by the City during the times of year when sludge application is not feasible, primarily during the growing season and certain wet periods during the Spring and Winter months.

Mr. Mullin noted the City has already taken major steps in converting the sludge treatment to a chemical treatment and is already applying the sludge to farm land. Mr. Mullin stated the City must now implement the recommendations outlined in the study in order to meet federal and state standards involved with the sludge disposal operation.

Alderman Koehrsen questioned if private companies would be interested in disposing of the sludge, and if the possibility existed that farmers would accept all of the sludge produced by the plant, thereby eliminating the need for the City to purchase property.

Craig Olson, Director of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, indicated several companies have shown an interest, but after they realized the quantity of sludge to be handled, they had declined to get involved with the operation. Mr. Olson also indicated that even though there is substantial interest by farmers to use the sludge, there are always going to be times when weather conditions will not permit land application, and as a result, storage facilities will have to be provided by the City.

The City Administrator indicated that City staff would now evaluate the options presented by Stanley Consultants and present a specific recommendation in the near future to City Council. The City Administrator further noted that as a result of a meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), there did not appear to be federal and state funds available for the purchase of land. It was noted, however, that funds would probably be available for the purchase of equipment involved with the sludge spreading operation. The City may also receive some reimbursement on the work which has been completed to convert the plant to a chemical treatment process.

Mayor Schauwand questioned Mr. Bright if the heat treatment system was included in the future operation of the plant? Mr. Bright indicated the heat treatment system had not been considered as a viable alternative in the study.

City Council then met with representatives of Muscatine Power and Water to discuss the proposed revised electric service area for the City. Mr. Duane Goedken, Attorney for Muscatine Power and Water, noted the State Commerce Commission would be holding a public hearing on the proposed service district in the near future. Mr. Goedken provided members of Council with a map showing the service area and noted the service district would include customers both inside and outside the City limits. All existing customers would continue to receive municipal power, however, certain sections in the North and South end of the City would still not be served with municipal power. Mr. Dave Rogers, Muscatine Power and Water, then reviewed the map in detail with members of City Council. Council expressed their disappointment over those areas in the City which had not been included in the service area. Mr. Goedken indicated Power and Water had tried very hard to include all areas within the City limits, but they had not been successful in their preliminary negotiations.

Alderman Kemp questioned the Board's policy on providing water service outside the City limits. Mr. Goedken indicated the Board does consider requests for water outside the City limits on a request-by-request basis. Mr. Kemp stated that water should not be provided outside the City limits in order to promote growth within the City. Mr. Goedken indicated the Board would discuss this matter at their next Board meeting.

The City Council then reviewed the status of several Parks and Recreation improvement projects including the Zoo, Weed Park Pool and the Harbor improvement projects. Mr. Joe Stevens, Parks and Recreation Director, reviewed the proposed renovation of the Weed Park Zoo to be converted to a Zoological Garden. Mr. Stevens reviewed both the capital cost estimates and the operational cost of the new facility.

Council expressed their concern over the operational cost projections indicating the proposed attendance figures and admission fees may be overly optimistic. Mr. Stevens noted the attendance figures were based on a year around operation and the admission fees were relatively low compared to the cost of participating in many other types of recreational activities.

The City Administrator noted that several individuals and firms had contacted this office indicating an interest in donating funds towards the renovation project. Alderman Platt indicated that the possibility of funding the renovation through donations changed his decision considerably towards the project. Mr. Platt noted that he would be in favor of this project if no tax funds would be required. Alderman Duncan stated he would also be in favor of the renovation project if no tax dollars would be required, and would also support the operation of the Zoo provided the current level of support could remain constant. City Council indicated their general support of the comments made by Alderman Duncan.

Mr. Joe Stevens then reviewed the improvements to the Weed Park Pool and indicated substantial redesign work had been accomplished since the initial plans were submitted by Schive-Hattery & Associates. Mr. Stevens indicated that the revised plans which have been reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board were now estimated at \$497,000, compared to the original estimates of \$609,500. Council was informed that the key in making the project a reality would be the approval of the \$125,000 grant request from the Heritage Conservation Recreation program. Council was informed that \$297,000 had been allocated from Federal Revenue Sharing and if the grant was approved, an additional \$75,000 in General Obligation Bonds would still be required. Council indicated their support of the project and expressed their appreciation to the staff and Parks and Recreation Board for their effort in reducing the cost of the project.

Mr. Stevens then reported to City Council the Levee Commission at their March 26, 1980 meeting had recommended the City reject the bids received for the renovation of the Boat Harbor. Mr. Stevens indicated the primary reasons for the Commission's recommendations were due to the high interest rates on the bond market and the problems the City had encountered with the evaluation of the bids. City Council was informed a formal recommendation on the project would be forthcoming at the following Council meeting.

The City Council then reviewed the proposal received for a new public address system for the Council Chambers in the amount of \$4,929 from Video Midwest of Bettendorf. The City Administrator noted several alternatives have been explored but it appeared it would be most economical to replace the entire system. Council indicated their desire to install a new P.A. system as they had received numerous complaints from citizens concerning the poor quality of the existing system. Council, however, indicated the decision should be delayed until June to determine whether or not sufficient funds were available in the Contingency account to purchase the equipment. The City Administrator was also requested to prepare a proposal on an arrangement of the Council Chamber along with equipment needs for audio visual presentations.

Council then discussed the possibility of meeting with the County Board of Supervisors to discuss projects which would involve both the City and the County. Council also discussed the possibility of setting a date with the Community Goals Committee to review their report on Government. Council asked the City Administrator to try to establish meetings during the April and May In-Depth sessions.

City Council was then provided with an update on the temporary embargo placed on Houser Street between Cedar and Lucas Street for vehicles over 12 tons except emergency and City vehicles. Council was informed that signs were posted at approximately noon on Friday, March 21, 1980. The City Administrator indicated a few complaints had been received concerning trucks using residential streets, however, based on information from the Police Department, the trucks generally appeared to be using the major streets in the City. Council was informed there is some concern over damage which the trucks may cause to certain sections of Cedar Street.

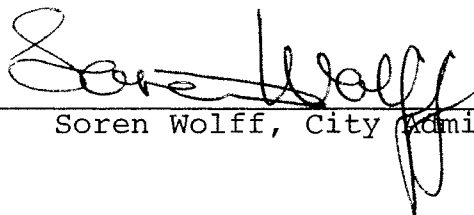
The City Council then discussed the proposed sales price of a portion of Third Street and the alley in Block #70 to HON Industries. Council was informed that two appraisals had been received last summer in the amount of \$42,000 and \$49,000.

The City Administrator noted a recommendation had been made by the Community Development Director, after his review of the appraisal, that the \$49,000 appraisal would be a fair market price. City Council indicated they would consider the sales price of \$49,000 at the next Council meeting.

The Mayor recommended that Mr. Bob Page be reappointed to the Civil Service Commission.

#4608 On motion by Koehrsen, seconded by Platt, the appointment was approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Soren Wolff", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'S' and a long, trailing 'W'.

Soren Wolff, City Administrator