

6-C

IN-DEPTH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

March 13, 1986

7:00 p.m.

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT: Mayor Waltman, Councilmembers York, Harder, Phillips, Amerine, Powell and Kemp

ABSENT: Councilmember Sayles

ALSO PRESENT: Soren Wolff, City Admininstrator; Ray Childs, City Engineer; Larry Wolf, Parks & Recreation Director; Kevin Whittaker, Director of Planning and Community Development; Deb Rauh, Finance Director; Craig Olson, Water Pollution Control Director; and Randy Hill, Administrative Assistant

The Mayor indicated Mr. Bob Percival from the IDOT was present to review the intersection of U.S. 61 By-Pass AND Hershey Avenue in regard to the installation of a traffic signal. The City Administrator provided the Council with a summary of the accidents which had occurred on the By-Pass since it opened in December of 1984 and the various corrective measures which had been taken by the IDOT.

Mr. Bob Percival summarized to Council the alternatives which the IDOT had reviewed as a result of the last fatality in December of 1985. Mr. Percival indicated the alternatives were outlined in the January 6, 1986 letter which included: grade separation of Hershey Avenue; four way stop signs; do nothing; and the installation of a fully signalized intersection. Mr. Percival stated that although the IDOT would agree to install a traffic signal the IDOT was not recommending the installation of the signal. Mr. Percival noted there is currently a national study being conducted on the effectiveness of traffic signals on high speed divided highways. Mr. Percival indicated there is a concern the installation of the signal could potentially cause rear end collision accidents which could be just as severe as those accidents previously experienced. Mr. Percival noted if the City requested the signal to be installed, it would have to be submitted under the USTEP program which would be funded 55% from State funds and 45% local funds with the City also paying for the design and administrative cost.

Councilmember Powell questioned whether rumble strips could be installed on the By-Pass to alert motorists of the Hershey Avenue intersection. Mr. Percival indicated this would be an improper use, but they could be used on Hershey Avenue.

Councilmember Kemp questioned if the speed limit could be lowered from 55 to 50 or 45 MPH. Mr. Percival felt that due to the design of the highway, lowering the traffic speed would not be effective unless there was 24 hour enforcement. Comments were made by several Councilmembers and Mr. Percival concerning the high volumes of truck traffic at the intersection and the concern over the degree of effectiveness a traffic light would have in stopping such vehicles in a safe manner. Councilmember Amerine indicated he could not support the installation of a traffic light at the intersection.

The Council then discussed the status of the Washington Street Bridge with representatives from the IDOT, the City Staff and the Washington Street Merchants.

The City Administrator indicated the staff had met with the IDOT and Fox Construction and developed a schedule for completing the bridge in approximately 4 1/2 weeks provided it was good weather with minimal rain. Ray Childs, City Engineer, reviewed the schedule. Mr. Bob Percival from the IDOT felt the 4 1/2 to 5 weeks was an ambitious schedule but that the project could be completed under good weather conditions.

Councilmember Harder indicated this time schedule would probably not be met as there was bound to be poor weather conditions. Councilmember Harder suggested the bridge be opened immediately using one lane traffic. The City Engineer indicated he was opposed to this proposal due to safety problems. Mr. Matt Fox, of Fox Construction, indicated the bridge could be opened if the Council decided to do so. He noted the cost would be substantially higher and estimated \$20,000 for traffic control plus an additional four to six weeks to complete the job in addition to the schedule already outlined. Mr. Bob Percival stated he was not sure what the State and Federal government's position would be on opening the bridge as he would have to check with the State legal department.

Mr. Bill Schneider, Richard Jones, Dr. Coder and Charles McBride stated they all favored opening the bridge to one lane traffic.

#9451 On motion by Councilmember Harder, seconded by Councilmember Kemp, it was moved to request the City Staff, the IDOT and the City Attorney to provide a report on a proposal to open up the bridge to one lane traffic at the next Council Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Marty Beckey then appeared on behalf of the Great River Days Ltd. to review plans for the 1986 Festival. Mr. Beckey noted a request was again being made for closing off the Riverfront to permit the charge for admission. It was further noted plans were to increase the admission from \$2.00 to \$3.00 in an effort to provide additional funds to be utilized for contributions toward the Riverfront Warehouse Renovation Project and new programs and activities. Councilmember Kemp questioned the advisability of increasing the button fee 00 as it could limit the ability of some families to attend the event. Mr. Beckey reviewed the past year financial status and noted that the net profit had been less than \$100. As a result, there would have been consideration to increase the button price regardless of the Riverfront Warehouse Renovation Project.

The Council then reviewed the request from the Central Business District Development Committee for the City to participate in the Main Street Program. Mr. Miller indicated the State would be selecting five (5) communities in Iowa as pilot projects. Mr. Miller stated an anticipated 35 to 40 applicants would be received by the State and competition would be high for the funding to be allocated from the State lottery program. Mr. Miller further reviewed the funding of the program and requested that the City allocate \$15,000 annually for three (3) years from the City's Parking Fund. These funds would be utilized in conjunction with the appropriations from the State and the private sector if the application is approved. The following individuals spoke in support of the project: Harold Rosenberg as a Real Estate Agent and how the program related to maintaining the value of real estate in the central business district; Jim White, representing the Greater Downtown Merchants Association and the importance of the central business district as a focal point of the community; Roger Davis from First National Bank indicated the importance of maintaining a strong financial downtown community; and Tom Bankhead as a property owner and the importance of tax revenues generated from growth in the central business district.

Mr. Bob Miller then summarized the program and highlighted the key recommendations from the Central Business District Development Committee. He emphasized that the Main Street Program was only one tool to be utilized by the Committee in an effort to continue to improve Muscatine's Central Business District.

#9452 On motion by Councilmember Kemp, seconded by Councilmember Powell, it was moved to approve the resolution for the City to participate in the Main Street Program. The resolution was approved unanimously.

The Mayor then indicated the City Council had reviewed the Fiscal Year 1987 Budget as presented by the City Administrator during the month of February and a public hearing had been held on March 6, 1986. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or additional comments on the budget. There were none.

#9453 On motion by Councilmember Amerine, seconded by Councilmember Phillips, it was moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 1987 Budget resolution. Motion was approved voting yes: Councilmembers York, Phillips, Amerine, Powell and Kemp. Voting no: Councilmember Harder.

Craig Olson, Water Pollution Control Director, reviewed with Council a proposal to purchase new primary clarifier troughs and awarding the contract for the installation of the modified mixers for the anerobic digesters. Mr. Olson indicated the low bid was not recommended for the steel troughs, but instead the higher of the two bids for the fiberglass troughs were recommended. Further, it was noted a request for approval of a contract would be submitted at the next meeting for the installation of digester mixers in the amount of \$28,500. Councilmember Harder requested "an amount not to exceed" and the number of completion days be included in the agreement. Mr. Olson indicated he would discuss those two items with the vendor prior to the next Council Meeting.

Mr. Olson then reviewed tentative plans for the location of sludge lagoons for Phase III of the Water Pollution Control Renovation Project. Mr. Olson reviewed four alternatives which had been investigated by the City staff and noted the most desirable was the alternative to pump the sludge to a lagoon to

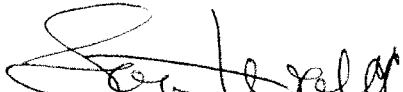
be located on property owned by Lutheran Homes just west of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Site. This would be the most economical from an operation and maintenance standpoint. If additional land adjacent to the Lutheran Homes could be obtained for sludge spreading, then it is possible that no lagoon would be required on the Airport property. Mr. Olson noted the Airport would still be utilized for sludge spreading, but no lagoon would be considered on the site

Council was informed that in order to implement the plan, an agreement would be required with Lutheran Homes with a proposal the City provide a sanitary sewer to Lutheran Homes. This would allow Lutheran Homes to eliminate their sewage lagoon. It was estimated the cost of extending the sanitary sewer was \$235,000, however, the sewer would be available to other property owners to connect to for a connection fee. Council was informed the staff would continue to negotiate an agreement with Lutheran Homes and adjacent property owners which would be forwarded for Council's consideration at a future date.

Mr. Bill Schneider, 423 Parkington Drive, owner of the Dairy Queen, addressed the City Council concerning the problems at weed park with four wheel drive vehicles tearing up the park facilities. Mr. Schneider emphasized that something needed to be done to keep the four wheel vehicles out of the park in an effort to minimize vandalism.

#9454 On motion by Councilmember Kemp, seconded by Councilmember Amerine, it was moved to adjourn the meeting.


Richard Waltman, Mayor


Soren Wolff, City Clerk