

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

APRIL 14, 1988

7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Don LeMar, Councilmembers Amerine, Phillips, Kemp, Harder, Sayles and Brewer

ABSENT: Councilmember York

ALSO PRESENT: Soren Wolff, City Administrator; Darlene Linville, Administrative Aide; Marsha Tate, Library Director; Steve Boka, Building & Zoning Administrator; Jim Pumfrey, Fire Chief; Randy Hill, Administrative Assistant/Public Works Director and Deb Yerington, Refuse Collection Supervisor

#10902 On motion by Councilmember Amerine, seconded by Councilmember Sayles, it was moved to receive and file the canvassed vote for Councilmember of the 5th Ward canvassed by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors on April 11, 1988. The motion was approved unanimously. Paul E. Brewer, Sr. then took the oath of office for the 5th Ward Councilmember seat.

The City Council reviewed the status of the proposed changes to the Downtown Parking System. The City Administrator provided an overview of the changes as reviewed with the City Council at the December 10, 1987 In-Depth Council Meeting. It was noted the recommendations were the joint effort the City Staff, Greater Downtown Merchants Association and the Central Business District. It was emphasized there were two major objectives in the revised program as follows: The merchants primary objective is to provide additional free parking in the Downtown; and the City's is to resolve the problem of the decrease in the Parking System Enterprise Fund Balance over the past four years. Council was reminded the fund balance had decreased from approximately \$247,000 in FY 1983 to an estimated \$100,000 by June 30, 1988.

The Council then reviewed the detailed changes in the current 1,125 parking spaces available in the Downtown. It was noted the spaces would increase to 1,137. The major change involved the conversion of the two attendant lots which consisted of 180 spaces to 100 - three hour free parking, 65 leased spaces and 15 spaces to be provided with long term parking meters. It was also noted the change included a recommendation to increase the overtime parking fine from

\$2.00 to \$5.00 and the meter violation fine to remain at \$1.00 but to increase to \$3.00 if not paid within 72 hours.

The Council had a general discussion concerning the various proposals and the impact on the Central Business District parking system. The City Administrator recommended a public hearing be held on the proposal to permit all interested parties to comment on the program prior to implementation. The Council requested a resolution be submitted at the next hearing to set a public hearing for the May 5, 1988 Council Meeting.

The Council then discussed a request from the Central Business District to install a banner program in the Downtown Area. Craig Hunter, CBD Coordinator, showed the City Council samples of the banners. Mr. Hunter noted the initial program would be a promotional event for "Springtime Muscatine" to promote the various community events which take place during this time of year. It was indicated that future community events would be displayed on the banners. A total of 26 banners were requested for installation as follows: four (4) in each of the blocks on Second Street between Chestnut and Walnut Street; two (2) on Second Street between Walnut and Mulberry; two (2) on Iowa Avenue between Second and Third Street; two (2) on Iowa Avenue between Mississippi Drive and Second Street; and two (2) on Cedar Street between Second and Third Street.

The City Administrator indicated installation of the banners should require the standard indemnification agreement which also requires an insurance certificate and the banners should be restricted to promoting community events with no private advertising. It was also noted the ordinance required a review and recommendation by the Zoning Board of Adjustment for these type of banners. However, due to the time schedule it was proposed Council consider approval of the installation subject to review by the Board of Adjustment.

#10903 On motion by Councilmember Amerine, seconded by Councilmember Kemp, it was moved to approve the installation of the 26 banners in the locations outlined subject to an indemnification agreement in accordance with the City Ordinance and subject to review by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The motion was approved unanimously.

The City Council then reviewed a proposal to proceed with replacing the remainder of the carpet at the Musser Public Library. It was noted the budget for Fiscal Year 1989 included \$8,000 for the project. The total project had been estimated at \$16,000. Marsha Tate, Library Director, indicated the Library Board had agreed to fund the remainder of the project from the Library Trust Fund. Due to the uncertainty of future availability of the carpet and the ability to match it, it was proposed the project be completed as soon as possible instead of waiting until the FY 1989 Budget. It was noted the total cost was \$16,579.95 based on the quotation received from Carriage House who were the low bidders on the project two years ago. Council requested the project be placed on the next City Council Agenda for consideration.

Council then reviewed the bids received for sidewalk snow removal and weed cutting on private property. Steve Boka, Building and Zoning Administrator indicated a total of seven bids had been received and the Council had been provided with copies of each of the proposals. It was noted the two low bidders were Marshal Epperly and Tim Shiech and Home Care Inc. It was noted there was a difference between their hourly rates for weed and snow removal. Councilmember Harder indicated it might be difficult to deal with two contractors with

different rates and it could create potential problems with complaints from property owners as to why the lower rate was not utilized. Councilmembers Kemp, Brewer and Harder indicated it would be desirable to use two contractors but the rate should be similar. Mr. Boka indicated he would discuss this matter with the two contractors and bring back a proposal for Council's consideration.

Council then reviewed a request by Grain Processing Corp. to construct a retaining wall in the public right-of-way on Oregon Street in front of their new office complex. Mr. Boka outlined the reasons for the request which were primarily related to improved drainage. It was noted a portion of the sidewalk would be located on private property. Councilmember Kemp questioned whether the sidewalk would be available to the general public. Mr. Boka indicated it would. The City Administrator indicated that due to the construction schedule, GPC had requested approval from the Council as soon as possible. Mr. Boka indicated the City had previously approved an indemnification agreement for the kiosk which was also built in the public right-of-way as part of the project. It was proposed an amendment be considered to the original agreement to permit the retaining wall.

#10904 On motion by Councilmember Brewer, seconded by Councilmember Sayles, it was moved to approve an amendment to the indemnification agreement with Grain Processing Corp. to permit the retaining wall on City property adjacent to the new office complex on Oregon Street. The motion was approved unanimously.

The City Council then reviewed the City Code in relation to open burning. It was stated the ordinance only permits the burning of leaves during the time period approved by the City Council during the Spring and the Fall. Fire Chief Pumfrey outlined the provisions under the code where a permit for burning could be issued under the Fire Prevention Code but noted no permits had been issued for the past 12 to 14 months. Chief Pumfrey also reviewed the past two year history of fires which had been caused by unauthorized burning which amounted to approximately 15% of the fire calls responded to by the Fire Department. Council generally agreed with the concept of not permitting burning during the Spring and Fall Clean-up Week but that such burning should be permitted immediately after completion of the pick up program.

Further, Council reviewed the possibility of establishing a policy on permitting brush burning in areas of the City which is used as agricultural land. The staff was requested to prepare a draft policy on this issue.

The Council then reviewed the general guidelines for a curb side pickup program for trash on a year round basis. It was noted this program was intended to provide pick up of items which are not normally picked up by the weekly garbage collection program. The City Administrator indicated with the purchase of an additional one man garbage truck this program could be implemented without any additional cost to the Refuse Collection Enterprise Fund. It was pointed out the collection rate for FY 1989 would increase from \$4.40 to \$4.65, but this increase was predominately the result of the State mandated surcharge for landfill disposal.

Randy Hill, Administrative Assistant/Public Works Director, then reviewed the guidelines for the program and the anticipated impact on the volumes which should decrease for both the Spring and Fall pick up program. It was pointed out the program was intended for residential property owners and not for industrial and commercial accounts. It was noted the program would require

citizens to call requesting the service for the pick up on the same dates as garbage collection. Councilmember Harder questioned why the pick up would be on the same day as garbage. Mr. Hill indicated this was an effort to coordinate the pick up in the most efficient manner. Mayor LeMar expressed concerns over safety to the employees involved in the pick up program. Mr. Hill responded that the City will continue its strong effort on reducing employee injuries and that the program would be carefully monitored and if changes or additional equipment is required, Council would be informed.

Council then reviewed the current policy of no liquor at the Pearl City Station. Council was provided with copies of two requests from individuals who wanted to hold wedding receptions at the facility this summer. Council also reviewed the State requirements for liquor licenses, the City Code which was amended in 1986 to allow City Council to consider serving of liquor on the riverfront, and the guidelines and application which is currently being utilized for the State Historical Building in Des Moines. The City Administrator indicated it would be advisable to not get involved with hard liquor as that becomes more difficult and complicated from a license and insurance standpoint. If the Council wanted to consider changing the policy it should consider only wine and/or beer and possibly only wine.

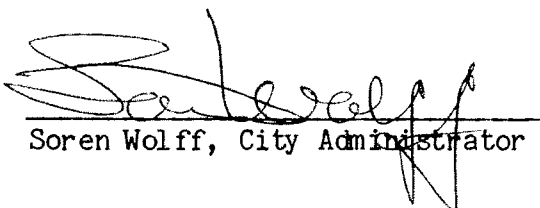
Councilmember Harder expressed a concern with the difficulty of being selective as to who will be permitted to serve alcohol. Councilmember Sayles expressed concerns on how to control the alcohol to remain within the building. Councilmember Brewer indicated that serving of alcohol would compete with other private businesses.

Jim Nepple, President of Central Business District, indicated that Council should consider permitting the serving of alcohol in order to accommodate the many groups who would like to hold various social functions at the facility, and noted the facility is an excellent place to promote Muscatine in regard to tourism and convention activities.


The Council requested the City Administrator prepare some general guidelines, policies, and options for Council to consider at the next Council meeting involving the serving of alcohol at the Pearl City Station.

Mayor LeMar announced the date and meeting place of the next Southeast Iowa Municipal League Meeting.

#10905 On motion by Councilmember Harder, seconded by Councilmember Kemp, it was moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.



Soren Wolff, City Administrator



Don LeMar, Mayor