

6-B

CITY OF MUSCATINE
CITY COUNCIL IN-DEPTH MEETING
MINUTES

March 9, 1989

7:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Don LeMar.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Sayles, Harder, York, Kemp, Phillips, Amerine, Brewer present

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator, A. J. Johnson

ITEM NO. 1

First item for review was Muscatine Rotary Club to place a permanent stage at Riverside Park. Present on behalf of the Rotary Club were Ms. Bev White and Mr. Roger Hughes. Also present were Mr. Tom Bankhead, Architect and City of Muscatine Parks and Recreation Director, Larry Wolf.

Representatives from the Rotary Club presented City Council with plans and specifications concerning the placement of a permanent stage structure in Riverside Park. Discussion centered around the location of the stage, the construction method and issues such as liability, safety, etc. It is estimated by the representatives of Rotary that this project will cost in excess of \$20,000 for installation and final completion. The project is designed to create a permanent stage to enhance the Riverside Park and riverfront area of the City. Activities such as live performances by entertainment groups during Great River Days were discussed as well as other programs and activities that could be scheduled throughout the summer months.

City Staff who have been working with the Rotary Club on this project indicated that the concerns such as flood plain review and construction were reviewed and will be worked out. The City has yet to receive any opinion from the City's insurance carrier concerning liability, although the design of the stage facility will be incorporating berms to reduce the City's exposure to any possible litigation problems. Members of the Rotary Club urged the City Council to consider this project because of the positive image it would project to outsiders in coming to Muscatine.

There was a suggestion by City Councilmembers that the area proposed for construction be "taped off" in order to give a better visualization of what the project would look like and the location it is proposed for. This item will appear on the agenda of March 16, 1989 for formal action.

ITEM NO. 2

Public Hearing for FY 89/90 Budget. A public hearing was held on Thursday, March 9, 1989 to review the proposed budget for FY 89/90 for the City of Muscatine. Finance Director, Deb Neels, was present to review with City Council the proposed budget and to answer any questions concerning that document. It is projected that overall expenditures will increase by approximately 3% for the upcoming fiscal year. In addition, it is also projected that the fund balance of approximately \$1,000,000 represents a 4% increase over FY 88/89. There was a further review of expenditure revenues by the Finance Director.

11558 With no other comments made, it was moved to by Jerry Amerine and seconded by Larry Kemp, to close the public hearing.

11559 A resolution was offered by Jerry Amerine and seconded by Paul Brewer to approve the budget for 1989-90. The resolution was approved unanimously.

ITEM NO. 3

Isett Avenue Project Reviews. City Engineer, Ray Childs, was present to review with City Council the proposed Isett Avenue Improvement Project for 1989. A brief history of the area and project was presented to City Council. Further, the funding/financial aspects of the project were reviewed with City Council.

Also discussed was the proposal for placement of sidewalks with this project.

In order to solicit comments from the affected property owners prior to any official action being taken by Council, it was discussed to hold "Public Meetings" in the area. Further, it was discussed that Councilmember Paul Brewer as well as the Councilmembers representing "At Large" should be present at these neighborhood meetings. The City Engineer was instructed to establish a public meeting at the Madison Elementary School on March 30, 1989 at 7:00 p.m. If this is not an appropriate time or if conflicts arise, the City staff is to reschedule, keeping Council informed.

ITEM NO. 4.

Sidewalk Review Policy. City Engineer, Ray Childs, reviewed with City Council the current sidewalk replacement/new construction policy of the City. Previous programs were reviewed with Council as to how new construction of sidewalk and replacement programs had been handled in the past. There is a concern from staff that future programs would require residents to be uniform in their approach to sidewalk repair and replacement and that when new street construction is proposed for areas, and especially areas that do not have existing sidewalks, that sidewalks be installed. Further, there was concern voiced as to the method of how sidewalks would be replaced and repaired and that residents should not be given an open hand to this process as they have been in the past. The concern is on the construction quality and time for construction.

After some discussion, it was thought that a possible release could be developed by the City in order to insure that residents who were either contemplating replacing sidewalks or would have to replace sidewalks because of damage, etc. would have to do so according to City specifications and if they chose to do it themselves or hired out, then they would release the City from any liability, etc. No official action was taken on this policy at this time.

ITEM NO. 5.

Review of lease purchase/street sweeper.

Acting Public Works Director, Randy Hill, was present to review with City Council the lease purchase of a new street sweeper for FY 88/89. Director Hill reviewed with Council the types of street sweepers available on the market at this time, and the method by which the staff would solicit interest and bids from possible vendors for an outright purchase and a lease of such equipment. There were no questions from City Council and staff will report back to Council before final implementation of the program.

ITEM NO. 6.

Towing Contract Review.

Acting Police Chief, Ron King, was present to review with City Council the proposed towing contracts for 1989-90. The City has received four bids concerning the towing contract. Changes were made in the bidding process for the 89/90 contract to allow for more individuals to submit bids. A total of four bids were received by the City.

Mr. Keith Lange was present to express concerns over the contract. Items 5A, 5B, 6, 7D, 7H, 5G and 10 were highlighted as areas in which Mr. Lange had a difference of opinion from staff as to how the contract should be worded. After discussion by staff and Council, it was felt that those items except for Item 10 should be included in the contract. Item 10 was language that will be changed and/or a letter of intent will be submitted to the bidding document.

Also discussed was the City's procedure for calling a towing service when individuals were given the option to choose a towing service. A list has been established by the Police Department and used by the Dispatchers when contacting towers. Those contacted are rotated through the system so that each towing service has an equal chance to be used by the City.

- * The possible inclusion of a review of junk car policy and the problems that they pose as to the aesthetic value of the City was reviewed for an In-Depth session in the future.

ITEM NO. 7

Parking Meter Manpower Review

City staff reviewed with Council the possibility of restructuring the personnel makeup of the Parking Meter Repair Person's position. The current position will become vacant in April due to retirement and staff has proposed utilizing personnel from the Water Pollution Control Department to take over