

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

January 13, 1983

7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Platt, Councilmembers Brewer, Kite, Sayles, York, Hilton, Plett, and Waltman

ALSO PRESENT: Soren Wolff, City Administrator; Arlen Wiggs, Community Development Director; Kevin Whittaker, Planning Administrator; Ray Childs, City Engineer

The City Council reviewed a proposal for the installation of an elevator in City Hall. Mr. Pierce King, Architect, outlined the proposed plans and specifications. Mr. King indicated the estimated cost of the project was \$120,000 plus approximately \$10,000 for engineering and architectural fees for a total cost of \$130,000. The Council questioned the access ramp to the City Hall concerning safety. Mr. King indicated several other alternatives had been explored, but the proposal to provide access to the first floor of City Hall appeared to be the most feasible location.

The City Administrator indicated that approximately \$59,000 is available from a bequest and gift to the City. This would require an additional \$71,000 to complete the elevator project. The additional funds would be required from General Obligation Bonds. Council was informed of a proposed \$500,000 bond issue to be issued in the Spring of 1983. It was noted the proposed \$75,000 for a Public Works Facility could be utilized for the elevator, with the funds for the Public Works Facility to be included in a bond issue in the Fall of 1983. The City Administrator indicated the proposal for the elevator would be placed on the next Council Agenda to set the Public Hearing on approving the plans and specifications.

The City Council then reviewed the proposed Public Improvements for 1983 and 1984. The City Administrator outlined the proposal to issue three (3) separate \$500,000 bond issues in the Spring of 1983, the Fall of 1983, and the Spring of 1984. It was estimated the three (3) bond issues should not require the City's tax levee to exceed a \$1.86 per \$1,000 of assessed value compared to the current debt service levee of a \$1.79.

The status of thirty-three (33) different Public Improvements Projects were reviewed with the City Council. The City Administrator indicated it would be necessary to move up the improvements to the

By-Pass connector streets as the City had been notified that plans were to complete the south section of the By-Pass from Mulberry South to Highway 61, Grandview Avenue by November 11, 1983. This would necessitate the improvements to Mulberry, Hershey, and Lucas Street from the By-Pass to Houser Street. Council was informed that no cost estimates were available as the City Engineering Department was working on the projects. It was noted Council would have to consider these projects to be financed with a combination of general obligation and special assessment bonds.

In addition to the list of projects reviewed, the Council requested staff to develop preliminary proposals on the Cemetery Chapel, office, and maintenance building renovation project and the East Hill Fire Station. Also, Council was further informed that plans were to review the proposal for a new Public Works Facility in February with City Council.

The Council then discussed a proposed set of "Financial Management Policies" to govern the City's Financial Management System. The City Administrator reviewed the policies with Council and indicated the document was to provide a guide to the City staff and Council as certain emergencies and unforeseen programs and/or activities could require different policies than those outlined.

The City Council then reviewed the City's Mutual Aid Fire Agreement with the cities in Muscatine County. The City Administrator reviewed the agreement and indicated assistance was only provided on the request of a Mayor, Fire Chief, or Assistant Fire Chief but not when requested by a private citizen. It was further noted the City does provide fire protection for five (5) establishments outside the City limits in accordance with agreements which were approved prior to 1975. It had been the previous Council's policy not to approved any additional agreements for fire protection outside the City limits.

It was noted prior to 1975, a fire district did exist which included some of the adjacent townships and the City of Muscatine. However, due to problems which had been encountered with the funding of this program it has been discontinued and as a result the Mutual Aid Agreement was entered into by the various municipalities in Muscatine County.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.


Soren Wolff, City Administrator