

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

March 12, 1981

7:00 p.m.

CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

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

ABSENT: Alderman Rada.

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Wolff, City Engineer Childs,
and Planning Administrator Whittaker.

Mr. George Long, Manager of the local Muscatine Red Sox Baseball Team, appeared before the City Council requesting that his organization be allowed to install advertising signs in Bruner Field to support their baseball team which has been in existence for 50 years. Mr. Long indicated this was a major source of revenue for the team. Mr. John Robinson, 812 West Third Street, former Manager of the Muscatine Red Sox, emphasized that advertising was a major support of the baseball team and without it he questioned whether the organization could continue to exist. Mr. Robinson asked the City Council to consider either an ordinance amendment to the sign ordinance or that the group be encouraged to appear before the Board of Appeals to request a variance from the ordinance.

Mr. Bunn, representing the Muscatine Little League organization, indicated one fourth (1/4) of their income comes from the sale of advertisement signs on the two little league diamonds at the Kent Stein Park facility.

The City Administrator indicated the City sign ordinance and City policy did not allow advertising on City owned property and the signs in Kent Stein were considered non-conforming. Council was also informed that the various non-conforming signs in the City would have to be removed by August of 1981.

Alderman Duncan indicated that perhaps the two organizations should consider a grouping of small signs which could be installed at the entrance to the ball diamonds indicating which organization sponsored the teams. Mayor Schauland indicated that Council would take the request under advisement.

The City Administrator was then requested to review the status of the various Capital Improvement programs in the 1980-81 fiscal year. The City Administrator pointed out to Council that the summary which had been sent out with the Council Agenda outlined only those projects which were in the first year of the current Five Year Capital Improvements Program. A memorandum from the City Planner dated February 12, 1981 concerning the status of each project was then reviewed on a project-by-project basis. After reviewing the projects and their various funding status, it was indicated that several projects should be considered to be funded from Federal Revenue Sharing Funds. These included a new public works facility, a new attack pumper, renovation to the Cemetery Chapel and the construction of a new maintenance building, East Hill Fire Station, demolition of the former Central Soya grain elevator, the latter two projects are included in the 1981-82 Capital Improvements Program. Council was requested to consider these priorities so a decision could be made in the near future. Council indicated the attack unit for the Fire Department was top priority and City staff should proceed with preparing specifications for bidding purposes.

The City Administrator then reported the status of hiring an Engineering firm to review the operational problems at the Water Pollution Control Plant. Council was informed that five (5) firms, including Weston; Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber; CH₂M Hill; Sverdrup & Parcel; and Kemp, Dresser & McKee, had been interviewed by the Committee consisting of the City Administrator, Water Pollution Control Director, WPC Lab Superintendent and WPCP Superintendent, Mr. Dan Huss of GPC, and Aldermen Platt and Duncan. Council was informed that the Committee had met on March 11, 1981 and had eliminated three (3) of the firms but had not been able to make a recommendation on one of the two remaining firms. It was noted the Committee would be meeting prior to next Council meeting at which time a specific recommendation would be made to City Council.

The City Council then reviewed a request for reimbursement from Riley Ambulance Service in the amount of \$1,444.70 as a result of uncollectable bills for calls which had been originated from the Police Department. The City Administrator indicated that the matter of ambulance service for the City of Muscatine had been discussed extensively by the Muscatine Emergency Medical Service Committee. The City Administrator indicated there would be some problem in paying this amount of money to a private ambulance service without any type of agreement as to what the conditions would be for payments of this type. It was proposed that this matter be reviewed with the MEMS organization prior to paying the bills.

The City Council then reviewed various proposed traffic changes at the intersection of Park Avenue and Ford Avenue; Mulberry and Wier Street; and at Houser and Hershey. The City Engineer reviewed the proposed changes and it was indicated specific recommendations would be forwarded at the March 19, 1981 Council meeting.

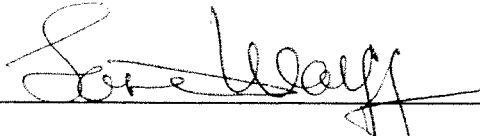
The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring March 21-25, 1981 as "Poison Prevention Week."

#5350 On motion by Alderman Waltman, seconded by Alderman Kemp, the proclamation was approved.

The City Administrator indicated that Council had received a copy of the Arbitration Award on the Police Labor contract. Council was informed that the opinion had been signed by all three members of the arbitration panel with the Police Union's representative dissenting with the opinion. A complete contract will now be prepared and will be presented to City Council for approval.

The City Administrator also indicated that the City had not been successful in obtaining a Double AA rating for the upcoming Bond sale. Council was also informed that it had been difficult for the City to get specific reasons from Moody's as to why the Double AA rating had been denied.

#5351 On motion by Alderman Platt, seconded by Alderman Kemp, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.



Soren Wolff, City Administrator