

MUSCATINE CITY COUNCIL
IN-DEPTH MEETING - MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1993, 7:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

The city council in-depth meeting of March 11, 1993, was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mayor John Keig. Council Members present: Dan Gray, Fitzgerald, Moench, Kemp, Freese, and Gary Gray. Absent: Phillips.

Staff present: A.J. Johnson, City Administrator; David Casstevens, Director of Finance and Records; Larry Wolf, Director of Parks and Recreation; Steve Boka, Building and Zoning Administrator; Kevin Whittaker, Director of Community Development and Planning; and Robert Torgerson, Police Captain.

The first item on the agenda for city council consideration was a subdivision approval request. Whittaker presented a proposed subdivision for council's approval. Previously the Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended approval of this subdivision involving four lots near the intersection of Highway 61 and 38 to accommodate the development of a hotel. Following approval by city council, the subdivision would be subject to site plan review. Also, it was requested that approval of the subdivision be given with the following stipulations: the engineering detail on the roadway and sewer work be submitted and approved and that performance bond be posted to ensure compliance with construction cost and scheduling. After the staff presentation, it was moved by council member Fitzgerald, seconded by council member Moench for approval of the resolution with the above noted stipulations. Roll call vote taken with all members of council present approving (6-0).

The next item on the agenda for council review pertained to complaints on ducks at the Muscatine Slough. City council had requested that this issue be placed on the agenda to review options on how to address concerns from the residents surrounding the Muscatine Slough on the current duck activity. Wolf provided an overview of activities that have taken place trying to control the perceived duck problem. Also present were DNR officials with their spokesperson Mr. Tom Campbell explaining to council the procedures and restrictions involved in minimizing the nuisance factor of the domestic and wild waterfowl at the slough. The problem as it has evolved centers around people not only in the neighborhood but those coming into the neighborhood feeding domestic and wild waterfowl and the waterfowl then creating a nuisance in the neighborhood. As pointed out by Campbell, a number of factors contribute to this problem but the paramount issue centers around people feeding the ducks and geese. Once feeding activities would cease, then over a period of time (unspecified) the waterfowl would seek alternative habitat where food was available.

The issue of enforcement also became a topic of discussion with staff members noting the difficulty in identifying and ultimately prosecuting those who may be in violation of the city's current nuisance regulation. It was unanimously felt that the waterfowl are creating a nuisance and we should try to address it in an effective manner. Wolf handed

out an outline of activities to be taken in order to minimize the problem in the neighborhood. City staff will begin to implement those steps within the five-point outline provided to council as soon as possible. Aside from the five noted points, it was also suggested that parking restrictions be enacted on Angle Street and notices sent to the area schools to discourage school activities that center around feeding the ducks.

The third item on the agenda for city council was the requested review of appointment dates for boards and commissions members. City Attorney Allbee provided council with recommendations concerning the change to the various boards and commissions appointment schedule to coincide with the fiscal year. There were questions from council members concerning the appointment on the Power and Water Board to receive their input before any changes were to take place. The city administrator indicated that he would communicate directly with the general manager of Muscatine Power and Water to secure their input on that particular appointment schedule. There was concurrence by city council that these changes should take place and that the city administrator would inform the city attorney to begin the necessary preparation for ordinance changes.

This was followed by a synopsis/review of the riverfront project. Johnson and Wolf outlined a series of activities that would be undertaken this calendar year. With the city council approval of the FY1993/94 budget and the capital development/bond issuance that are planned for 1993/94. Projects that are anticipated to be undertaken in the phased riverfront development are the development of the trail on the levee, the demolition of the existing Timmons building and the construction of a deck area, relocation of railroad switchyard, developing a more comprehensive boater services, and parking and paving issues. There was a consensus from council that these items should be undertaken by city staff with all expediency.

There were no comments from councils members.

At 9:02 PM it was moved by Ralph Freese, seconded by Larry Kemp to go into closed session to discuss negotiations. Roll call vote taken with all members present approving (6-0). At 9:53 PM it was moved by Larry Kemp, seconded by Gary Gray to leave closed session. Roll call vote taken with all members present approving (6-0).

Moved by Larry Kemp, seconded by Glenn Moench, to authorize city staff to continue with negotiations with the Muscatine Boat Club and to pursue those negotiations vigorously with the April 15 deadline still imposed on securing an agreement.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned by a motion by Ralph Freese, seconded by Larry Kemp. Unanimously approved by council members at 9:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A.J. Johnson".

A.J. Johnson
City Administrator