

**MUSCATINE CITY COUNCIL  
IN-DEPTH MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1994, 7:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Jeanette Phillips, Mayor. Council Members present: D. Gray, Moench, P. Fitzgerald, K. Fitzgerald, O'Brien, Freese and G. Gray

Staff present: A.J. Johnson, City Administrator; David Casstevens, Finance Director; Steve Dalbey, Fire Chief; Larry Wolf, Parks and Recreation Director; Ray Childs, City Engineer; Steve Boka, Building and Zoning Administrator; and Wayne Taylor, Housing Administrator.

Prior to the formal agenda being addressed, the mayor recognized Cynthia Maeglin who made a presentation on behalf of the newly established sister city relationship between Loma, Poland, and the City of Muscatine. Maeglin had recently been in Poland on a sister city visit and presented the mayor and council with a crystal vase. On behalf of the City of Muscatine, Phillips accepted.

Also, the mayor took the opportunity to present to city council a proclamation declaring Monday, March 14, as Colorado School Day, recognizing the 30 years of education provided to the community by Colorado Elementary School.

Moved by Freese, seconded by G. Gray, to accept the proclamation. All members voted to approve (7-0).

The first item on the agenda was a review of the Veterans Plaza jail project. John Axel, city representative on the Planning Authority, was present to review the progress of the jail construction with council. He shared the various components of the project to date and how it will progress to the projected construction start of June 15. Axel also discussed with council the city's role in the project; street vacations and easements and a bid submitted by Public Works for the removal of curb, gutter and asphalt overlay on Fourth Street when it has been closed. There were questions from council.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the 15 scattered site housing unit the city is currently undertaking. Wayne Taylor, Housing Administrator and Roy Neumann, Architect, were present to review the project. It is anticipated a fall completion date will be met for all 15 units. Motion by D. Gray, seconded by P. Fitzgerald, it was moved to accept the plans and specifications and to proceed with the bid activity. All members present voted to approve (7-0).

The next item was the second public hearing for the Proposed 1994/95 Fiscal Year Budget. Johnson explained that no changes had taken place since the last public hearing and that unless there were any questions from council or the audience, there would not be any substantive review at this time. Moved by G. Gray, seconded by O'Brien, to close the public hearing. Approved (7-0).

This was followed by a resolution to approve the proposed FY1994/95 annual budget. It was moved by G. Gray, seconded by K. Fitzgerald for approval. Under discussion, Moench voiced concern over some components of the overall budget. He felt that as a council member needed to express his concerns and that the entire council was not unified in its decision to move forward on the budget items. There were no other discussion items. Roll call vote taken. Approve 7-0.

The next item for consideration was an update on the riverfront gas operations. Wolf and Boka provided the update for council. Wolf explained that as part of the overall riverfront improvement project, the city would be offering a limited gas service operation for this boating service beginning Memorial Day and running through Labor Day. Discussions are ongoing with individuals who expressed interest in providing

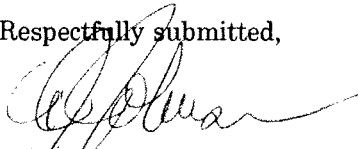
for the gas operation and other complimentary boater services on the riverfront. Boka explained the current situation with the existing building on the riverfront that was to be used for housing these operations. It appears at this time with the concurrence of council the building will be renovated sometime next year, particularly keeping in mind the potential new user for the facility. There was some discussion by council concerning the need to restrict gas sale operations now that the city would be in a more involved position in providing gasoline services. It was also pointed out that if the city were unsuccessful in obtaining a private party to run the gas operations, we may have to look at it for this year. Staff presented cost estimates on the gas operations. Council will be asked to officially approve the purchase for the renovation and development of a gas operation at the March 17 city council meeting.

Next was an overview of a proposed prohibition on smoking for new hires for police and fire positions. Johnson and Dalbey spoke on behalf of the position, citing the current retirement system for police and fire fighters which makes a pre-disposition of job-relatedness when an employee has a heart or lung disease or problem. It was noted that by prohibiting smoking on and off duty, the city would lessen its liability for this potential problem. There was discussion by council concerning the legality and appropriateness of a total prohibition on smoking on and off duty for employees and cited their being uncomfortable in entering the private lives of employees. Following further discussion, it was determined there would be no policy promoted at this time.

The last item for review was a proposed cost recovery ordinance. The ordinance would allow for city departments to recover costs associated with hazardous materials spills and containment activity. There currently is no appropriate mechanism for this to take place. Council was in agreement. This will appear on the March 17 agenda.

With no further business, it was moved by Freese, seconded by D. Gray, to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A.J. Johnson', written over the typed name.

A.J. Johnson  
City Administrator