

**MUSCATINE CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES - IN-DEPTH MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1995, 7:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL**

The City Council In-depth Meeting for Thursday, March 9, 1995, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Jeanette Phillips. Council Members present: Gary Gray, Ralph Freese, Dan Gray, Glenn Moench, Dick O'Brien, Kevin Fitzgerald, and Phil Fitzgerald.

Also present: City Administrator A.J. Johnson, City Attorney Harvey Allbee, Jr., Housing Administrator Wayne Taylor, Police Captain Rob Yant, and City Engineer Ray Childs.

The first item on the agenda for consideration was a presentation of the upcoming air show program. Scheduled for June 9-11, 1995, Theater In the Sky Productions, Inc., was present to provide city council with an update of activities. Marlyce and Bob Vermeire, representing Theater In the Sky Productions, Inc., were present to give an overview to city council. Johnson also stated that it was their hope that the contract for this activity could be presented to city council at their March 16 meeting for approval.

The next item on the agenda was an overview of the animal control ordinance revisions. Gary Gray presented the background information to council and introduced Eleanor Dvorchak, citizen in the audience, who worked on the subcommittee. Allbee then reviewed the changes in the ordinance recommended by the subcommittee. He stated that there were three additional definitions that would be included in the ordinance with a question mark concerning "habitual." There were questions concerning the number of occurrences that had to take place in order for certain actions/tickets to be issued. There was discussion concerning implementation of a grace period in order to allow for people to comply.

Council Member Glenn Moench raised a question as to the projected cost for administering the distribution and monitoring of the licenses. After some discussion, Johnson stated staff would put together projected costs for administering the program. There were questions concerning the age of someone who must register an animal. It was determined that 18 years or older would be responsible for registering animals. Council also discussed the number "3" for separate complaints and consecutive days under which action could be taken. To this end, it was moved by Phil Fitzgerald and seconded by Dan Gray and approved by city council to include that language.

This matter will be placed on the March 16 agenda for establishing a public hearing for the first meeting in April at which time a public hearing and the first reading of the ordinance would be held.

The next item on the agenda was an update of the promenade/pier project for the riverfront. Johnson gave a brief overview of the project to date and turned the program over to City Engineer Ray Childs. Childs reviewed project costs, funding sources, and time tables for its completion. A public hearing will be held on this matter on March 16 with anticipated action following.

The fourth item on the agenda for consideration was an overview of the sale of scattered site housing properties by the city. The city is currently involved in the construction of 15 single family scattered sites housing units under a housing and urban development grant program. Prior to the implementation of the program, the city council indicated a desire to sell these homes if possible to qualified buyers in order to encourage home ownership. Taylor was present to provide city council with questions and/or suggestions as to how the city may wish to approach this issue. It was mentioned the Housing Advisory Commission had already reviewed these and were going to be making suggestions to city council in the future. After much discussion, it was determined that Taylor would be requested to return at the April in-depth meeting to give specific recommendations as to how council should proceed.

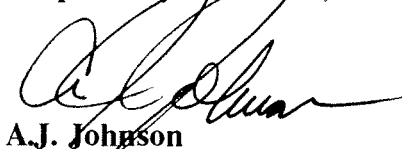
The final item on the agenda for consideration was the establishment of a computer center at Sunset Park. Taylor indicated the city had been approached by the Muscatine Center for Strategic Action (MCSA) as to the possibility of establishing a computer center for kids at the Sunset Housing facility during the summer months. This would be a ten-week period in which the center would be established in a vacant two-bedroom apartment, staffed and equipped by the MCSA. The facility would be open only when there was staffing available. The city's responsibility would be to provide the site and utilities. Council approved the concept. A lease will be forwarded for their consideration at the next city council meeting.

Under discussion items, O'Brien encouraged council members to attend the upcoming ERC function.

Johnson stated he had received a phone call from the CP/Soo Line rail indicating a desire to raise the speed limit of the trains through the downtown area from 25 to 45 miles per hour. Currently the city does not have any posted speed limits or ordinances relating to speed for trains through town. Through much discussion, the council determined to allow for the increase to take place with the city to continue to monitor the situation and take corrective action if necessary.

With no further business to discuss, it was moved by Freese, seconded by O'Brien to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



A.J. Johnson  
City Administrator