

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – March 10, 2011

Mayor Dick O'Brien called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, March 10, 2011, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Fire Chief Jerry Ewers, and Community Development Director Steve Boka.

The first item on the agenda was a request to adopt the resolution awarding the contract for the South End Fire Station.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager presented an overview of the information contained in the memo that was distributed as part of the agenda material. He stated the project is approximately \$191,000 over the engineer's estimate. He stated staff is working with the architecture to find potential options for cost savings and also plans to work with the bidder to value engineer the project where possible.

#21494. Councilmember Roby moved the resolution be adopted awarding the contract to First Construction Group Inc. in the amount of \$1,299,202 for the South End Fire Station Project. Seconded by Councilmember Bynum.

Councilmember Shihadeh had questions for Cheung Chan, representing Invision Architectural.

Councilmember Fitzgerald commented about the identified potential savings and noted that not all would perhaps be appropriate.

Councilmember Lange asked if the facility would have a meeting room, and Fire Chief Jerry Ewers answered yes.

Councilmember Shihadeh stated funds for the project are not free dollars but are tax dollars.

Vote – All ayes: Councilmembers LeRette, Fitzgerald, Natvig, Shihadeh, Bynum, Roby, and Lange. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the resolution for permit required confined space rescue by the Fire Department.

City Administrator Mandsager and Fire Chief Jerry Ewers reviewed with Council the history behind this request. Council was reminded that during the budget review sessions held earlier this year, the decision was made to eliminate the "Per Call Service" fee for businesses. In addition, companies that decide not to enter into an agreement will not be allowed to list the Fire Department as their designated rescue team and they will need to list who they are designating as their team in their written confined space program. It is estimated revenue generated will be approximately \$15,000 to \$27,000.

This item will be presented for action at a future City Council meeting.

The next item on the agenda was a review of inspection fees for the Fire Department.

City Administrator Mandsager reviewed the history behind this request. He stated this item was a topic of discussion during the recent budget discussions. He added that the inspection fees would provide approximately \$10,000 in revenue for the Fire Department.

Chief Ewers explained how the inspection fines outlined in the proposed resolution were determined.

Councilmember Roby stated it has been quite a while since the fees have been updated.

Chief Ewers stated that tonight's proposal is based upon a review of comparable cities. He then stated this is the first time the fees will be adopted.

Councilmember Fitzgerald stated some fees had been charged prior to MUSCOM going into effect.

This item will be presented for action at a future City Council meeting.

The final item on the agenda was a review of the proposed Parkview Condominium annexation request.

City Administrator stated this was a good annexation opportunity and reviewed the three annexation opportunities the city is presently reviewing.

Community Development Director Steve Boka stated this is a voluntary annexation request. He reviewed the request with City Council as well as the maps Council had received as part of the agenda materials. He stated staff is seeking concurrence from Council to move forward with the annexation process.

Councilmember Roby stated it was obvious that Mr. Boka had done his homework.

Councilmember Fitzgerald inquired about the potential sewer lines to the area.

There was discussion concerning the costs involved with the annexation. Mr. Boka stated the estimated cost is \$60,000.

Councilmember Natvig stated he feels it will be a good project.

Under comments, Councilmember LeRette asked about the status of the request from the IDOT for funding of operating costs for a potential passenger rail system from Iowa City to Chicago.


City Administrator Mandsager provided Council with an update on the conference call with the IDOT that was held earlier this week.

Councilmember Shihadeh stated he was encouraged by the fact the Humane Society had accepted the city's \$60,000 allocation offer.

Councilmember Roby stated garbage is starting to show up due to the melting snow. She asked residents to begin picking it up where possible.

Councilmember Lange reminded everyone about daylight savings time and the need for setting the clocks forward an hour.

#21495. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.


Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator