

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – February 9, 2012

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, February 9, 2012, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were LeRette, Fitzgerald, Shihadeh, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Parks and Recreation Director Rich Klimes, Program Supervisor Matt Beatty, Athletic Facilities Manager Nick Gow, and Golf Professional Dan McGinn.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Anthony Wolfmueller requesting that the city ordinance be amended in order to allow him to keep his two ball pythons. City Council discussed the matter and it was their consensus staff review the ordinance as it pertains to Mr. Wolfmueller's request.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by the Phase III Development Committee for the Soccer Complex. Jennifer Livermore introduced Committee members Tim Riley, Dr. Brad Bark, Jason Schillig, Muscatine Foods Property Owner, Mary Wildermuth, Nick Gow, and Richard Klimes. City Council was told that the Recreation Advisory Commission unanimously recommended that City Council move forward with the Phase III Development Project with an estimated cost of \$5 million subject to 100% outside funds.

Dr. Bark reviewed the conceptual plan which includes a parking lot, four synthetic playing fields, restroom and shade buildings, fencing, playground, and a frontage trail/sidewalk connecting Kent Stein Park to the American Legion area. There was discussion concerning the property owner and the requirements that need to be met for his land donation.

Nick Gow, who is the city's Athletic Facilities Manager, gave an overview of the cost estimate that was done by Stanley Consultants and staff as well as field operating costs.

There was discussion on the proposed parking.

Councilmember Shihadeh thanked Bill Haag for his prior assistance. He asked if the synthetic fields could be reduced to two if the money is not raised.

Parks & Recreation Director Rich Klimes, who is also a member of the Committee, stated the Committee would like the opportunity to raise the planned funds, but he added there are additional options.

Councilmember Spread asked if the synthetic surfaces are permanently marked.

Nick Gow stated that some of the fields could have permanent paint and some could have temporary paint.

Councilmember Shihadeh asked if there is a schedule in place for the local entities. He stated a schedule hasn't been looked at in detail but there is a system in place currently.

Councilmember Shihadeh then asked about maintenance costs.

Mr. Gow stated there was no equipment listed in the packet provided to City Council; however, it has been built into the fund raising. He stated that seasons will be extended by one month in the spring and fall.

Ms. Livermore stated that there are 27 usage groups in the community that would be positively impacted by the synthetic fields.

The wellness and fitness aspects of the project were discussed.

Councilmember Bynum asked the Committee if they felt the \$5 million was attainable.

Mr. Klimes stated there will be opportunities to seek funding and cover direct operational costs.

Councilmember Shihadeh stated he felt the project would be a great addition to the community and is very much needed. He stated it was worth supporting. He stated that Mr. Haag was part of the learning process from 1991-2002. He ended by saying that the \$3.8 million was obtained for the earlier project.

The next item on the agenda was a review of recreation fees.

Matt Beatty, the city's Program Supervisor, gave an overview of the memo and the proposed fee structures for recreation fees, Aquatic Center fees, Park Administration Fees, Kent Stein Park Fees, Cemetery fees, and golf fees.

Dan McGinn, the city's Golf Professional, gave an overview of the golf survey that was conducted in 2011. He stated that staff is comfortable with the increase to the golf rates, noting they are still on the low end.

There was further discussion on rates and incentives at the golf course.

Next on the agenda for review were the City Council rules.

City Administrator Gregg Mandsager gave an overview of the memo and his proposed updates to the rules.

There was discussion concerning the setting of public hearings, purchases, and the removal of Section 11.5 and referencing the State Code. In addition it was noted that the language should be updated concerning the "delivery" of City Council packets and that Section 2.2 (Order of Business) should also be reviewed.

The final item on the agenda was the approval of a proclamation recognizing Vice President Xi Jinping's visit to Muscatine.

#21928 . Councilmember Fitzgerald moved the proclamation be approved. Seconded by Councilmember Spread. All ayes; motion carried.

Under comments, Councilmember Bynum stated it was nice to have the budget meetings winding down.


Councilmember Phillips stated she would be willing to serve on a committee concerning the "snake" issue.

Councilmember Spread recognized city staff for the time spent preparing for the budget.

Mayor Hopkins stated he would be presenting the Chinese Vice President's with a "Key to the City" as well as the proclamation that was approved tonight.

City Administrator Mandsager stated the City of Muscatine had been awarded a Quality Paving Award by the Paving Association of Iowa for the Weed Park to Wildcat Den Trail.

#21929. Councilmember Shihadeh moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Fitzgerald. All ayes; motion carried.


Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator