

MUSCATINE CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES - BUDGET SESSION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1995, 8:00 AM
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

The city council budget session for the 1995/96 budget preparation process was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Mayor Jeanette Phillips. Council Members present: Phil Fitzgerald, Kevin Fitzgerald, Dan Gray, Gary Gray, Ralph Freese, Glenn Moench, and Dick O'Brien.

Staff members present: A.J. Johnson, City Administrator and David Casstevens, Finance Director.

Joining the group were Senator Dick Drake and Representative Barry Brauns. Both Senator Drake and Representative Brauns reviewed with city council events which are currently taking place within the state legislature which concern municipalities. The biggest concern to the city at this time is what legislation is being considered that pertains to the city's ability to collect Machinery and Equipment Tax money. At this time neither Drake or Brauns could give any specifics but felt something would happen this legislative session which would impact this area.

Both Drake and Brauns left the meeting at 8:40 a.m. Council expressed their thanks for sharing that time with them.

There were introductory comments made by Johnson concerning the general state of the budget.

Joining the city council was Police Chief Gary Coderoni. Discussion began on communication equipment needed for public safety dispatch. Johnson, Coderoni, and Casstevens discussed options available at this time pertaining to the replacement of the communications hardware at the public safety dispatch. There was discussion concerning the possible multiple use of a communications center with other public entities such as Power and Water, school district, and county sheriff's office. The staff will investigate the feasibility of this. At the end of the discussion, Coderoni left the meeting.

Discussion turned to General Fund budget activities. The first discussion concerned the mayor and council. There were questions concerning the process under which council would review and possibly alter their wage schedule and another questions centered around what procedures had to be gone through to raise the mayor's term from two to four years. Johnson will report back on these items. Also discussed were legal services and city administration. Under city administration, there was discussion concerning the adoption of a new plan to install new telephones within the city. There was also discussion concerning the need for a personnel wage and classification study to be done. The last time one was done for the city was in 1988. Johnson stated that under ideal conditions, this should be done every five to seven years. The projected cost for such an activity was at \$15,000 which was not included

in the budget for budgetary reasons. Council will need to formally decide this when they make their decisions on what is and is not to be included in the city budget.

Council then went on to review Personnel, Finance, and Computer Operations and Risk Management.

Building and Grounds was discussed. Comment was made regarding the cleaning of ceiling tile and whether or not that could be contracted out privately. If it couldn't be cleaned, should it be painted? This information will be shared with Building and Grounds.

Council then took a break at 12:00 Noon for lunch.

During lunch hour the council took a first review of the Library budget. Johnson indicated this budget has been reduced by \$15,000 for the next fiscal year. He stated at 1:00 p.m. a representative from the library board would be present to discuss their concerns and issues with city council. At 1:00 p.m., James Weaver, representing the library board, was present to review the budget and to ask for council's consideration on what they had recommended for expenditures. He also spoke briefly concerning the space and needs study currently being done at the library which will be formally shared with council at Thursday night's meeting. Weaver asked council for their consideration to adopt the budget as presented to them without the cuts.

Council went on to discuss police operations, including Animal Control and another Communications review. Under Animal Control, it was noted the city would be reviewing the proposed changes in the Animal Control ordinances presented by the Animal Control Task Force in January 1995. It was also noted that once the ordinance has been changed there needs to be aggressive enforcement to get the message across to the citizens that the council is concerned and serious about animal control matters. There was also a question concerning the response from DNR as to the removal of wild animal carcasses within the city. Johnson will report back on this issue.

Council went on to discuss Fire Department Operations, Civil Defense, and Art Center. Under the Fire Department Operations, council discussed the current vacancy within the fire inspector's position and asked that the filling of that vacancy be held off until the final determination as to what is to be included and excluded from the budget.

With no further business to discuss, council adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



A.J. Johnson
City Administrator