

CITY OF MUSCATINE
MUSCATINE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

IN-DEPTH COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 1989

7:00 P.M.

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT: Mayor LeMar, Councilmembers Amerine, Phillips, Kemp, York, Harder and Sayles

ABSENT: Councilmember Brewer

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Whittaker, Acting City Administrator; Deb Neels, Director of Finance; Randy Hill, Acting Public Works Director; Jim Pumfrey, Fire Chief

The Mayor opened the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Councilmember Amerine asked City Council to consider whether the broadcasting of the In-Depth Council meeting on cable t.v. should continue. He stated that City Council initiated the live In-Depth broadcast in July, 1988 for a trial period and he was trying to evaluate the merits of this decision. He indicated that Council meetings for the In-Depth session have become very structured and it was possible that the information presented was not as candid as it was in the past. He also asked for the public to contact Council members to voice their opinion on this matter.

1. Mark Wheeler, of Muscatine General Hospital, stated that the Hospital and Health Center were experiencing a severe parking problem. This problem was most acute during the hours of 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and he was approaching City Council to ask consideration of the following:
 - a. Permission to park along Cedar Street for a six to nine month period.
 - b. Permission to utilize the Art Center parking lot off Cedar Street for Hospital employee parking.

Councilmember Kemp and Sayles stated that the Art Center parking, with approval of the Board of Trustees of the Art Center, appeared to be a more viable solution than parking along Cedar Street. This was especially true as Cedar Street functions as a school bus route. Councilmember York inquired whether the Hospital had considered Mulberry Avenue. Mark Wheeler responded that Mulberry had been considered and that both Mulberry and the Art Center parking lot presented problems due to the distance from the Hospital and Health Center. Council member Kemp indicated that Mulberry Avenue and the Art Center lot should be explored with the idea that employees of the

Hospital and Health Center should use these alternative sites for parking.

2. This item relating to the synchronization of traffic signals in the downtown area was deleted due to the fact that the City Engineer was unable to attend the meeting. This item will be discussed at the next regular City Council meeting.
3. Fire Chief Jim Pumfrey reviewed an ordinance relating to the adoption of the 1988 Uniform Fire Code. He reviewed the background and changes contained in the 1988 Code. He also highlighted a change relating to those properties located outside the City limits that receive City fire protection through previously approved agreements. In summary, the change related to this item will require new construction at those facilities outside the Corporate limits to comply with the 1988 Uniform Fire Code. The Mayor questioned overlap between the Uniform Fire Code and the Uniform Building Code and indicated this might cause some confusion on the part of the public. Chief Pumfrey responded that the Uniform Building Code governed new construction as it was being installed and that the Uniform Fire Code pertained to the ongoing prevention to mitigate loss due to fire. The Mayor and Councilmember Kemp noticed that a Board of Appeals would be required if the 1988 Uniform Fire Code is adopted. Chief Pumfrey responded that it was necessary to have an Appeal Board however it may be possible to have an existing Board assume this function. That issue will be explored prior to the scheduled public hearing on the adoption of the Fire Code.
4. An overview of the City's Fiscal Year 1989/90 budget and discussion of Debt Service Fund. Kevin Whittaker reviewed the process involving the City's various Boards and Commissions and staff participation in formulating the 1989/90 budget. Deb Neels Director of Finance, then reviewed the City's organization chart and the change in full time positions. It was noted that one full time equivalent would be added to the General Fund. This consists of a one-half time position at the Cemetery Operation and a one-half time Park Maintenance position which will be added bring the total number of positions to 216. It was also pointed out that the City's overall growth rate was less than one percent at .86% for residential, commercial and industrial development during the past taxable year. The proposed 1989/90 budget is approximately three percent above 1988/89 tax rate. This results in an increase in the rate from \$10.48 to \$10.79 per \$1,000. This is approximately an \$11.23 tax increase on the average residential single family home in Muscatine. The General Fund balance was \$995,442 as of June 30, 1988. It would be necessary to maintain and increase this fund balance to \$1,037,291 for Fiscal Year 1989/90 as revenue from taxes collected is not reimbursed to the City until mid October.

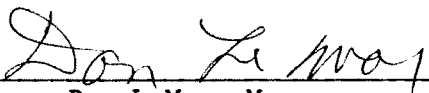
Deb Neels then reviewed the Debt Service Fund. She indicated that April was the proposed date for a spring bond issue and briefly reviewed the projects involved in the issue. The City's legal debit limit criteria was also reviewed and it was noted that approximately \$10,000,000 in debts have been incurred leaving a margin of almost \$18.7 million to work with. The debt service tax on current debt is \$1.29 and with the new issue in the spring of 1989 an additional \$0.12 will be added increasing the amount to \$1.41. This is approximately 13% of the total tax rate allocated for debt service. Deb Neels indicated that she would like to have City Council consider setting a public hearing at the next regular City Council meeting to initiate the bond issue for the City. The public hearing on this bond issue

will be conducted March 2nd, March 16th the City Council would then approve a resolution providing for the pre-levy of taxes for the bond issue. City Council would approve a resolution awarding the bonds to the lowest bidder on April 6th and on April 20th City Council would approve a resolution amending the pre-levy of taxes to the actual levy requirements. There was no further discussion on the 1989/90 budget overview.

#11505 On a motion by Councilmember Amerine, seconded by Councilmember Kemp, it was moved to go into executive session to discuss impending litigation relating to the selection of a Police Chief. On a roll call vote all members voted aye, motion carried.

11506 Councilmember York moved to go out of executive session, seconded by Councilmember Amerine. All members present voted aye on a roll call vote, motion carried.

11507 On a motion by Councilmember York, seconded by Councilmember Kemp, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:30 p.m. All members present voted ayes, motion carried.



Don LeMar, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kevin Whittaker, Acting City Administrator