

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

I, Jeff Lee, being duly sworn, on my oath, say that I am an advertising clerk at the *Muscatine Journal*, a newspaper of general circulation, published in the City of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa; and that the following Notice:

Muscatine City Clerk
In-Depth Minutes
April 9, 2009

Of which the annexed printed slip is a true, correct and complete copy, was published in said *Muscatine Journal* one time having been made there in on:

April 20, 2009

Jeff Lee

STATE OF IOWA
MUSCATINE COUNTY

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
20th day of April 2009

Beth Lester
Beth Lester, Notary Public



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INDEX No.

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
MUSCATINE, IOWA

MUSCATINE CITY COUNCIL IN-DEPTH MEETING Council Chambers - 7:00 p.m. April 9, 2009

The City Council in-Depth meeting for April 9, 2009 was called to order by Mayor Dick O'Brien at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Press, Fitzgerald, Howard, Shihadeh, Bynum, and Lange. Also present were City Administrator A.J. Johnson, Public Works Director Randy Hill, City Engineer Jon Lutz, Police Chief Gary Codroni, Human Resources Manager Stephanie Romagnoli, and Solid Waste Manager Laura Liegois.

The first item on the agenda was a Graffiti taskforce review. Previously Mayor O'Brien appointed members of the community to the taskforce to review and make recommendations concerning options for the removal of graffiti in the community. Kar Kelly, a representative of the taskforce, presented a power point review of the issue and recommendations of the taskforce. Under the "Q&A" section of the presentation, Councilmembers raised a number of issues including liability, overall responsibility of the community, and various definition questions concerning language that would be inserted into an ordinance.

It was also announced that April 25, 2009 will be "Paint Out Day" where the public is encouraged to assist their neighbors in removing graffiti from property.

The Council thanked the taskforce for providing their recommendations which will now be crafted into an ordinance for future consideration by City Council.

The next item on the agenda was a Cedar Street improvement review. City Administrator Johnson provided a background review of this issue and then turned the program over to Public Works Director Hill to provide an overview of options Council could consider for the Cedar Street improvements. City Engineer Lutz provided a review of the engineering and technical aspects of the improvements that could be considered by Council.

The street surface would either be an asphalt overlay or a concrete surface with expanded turn lanes, etc. There was also discussion concerning the placement of sidewalks and a possible walking trail connection to the area.

The discussion then turned to sidewalks with four options being reviewed. Those options would be no sidewalks, sidewalks on both sides, or sidewalks on either the north or south side. The cost estimate for sidewalks is \$100,000 for either side and \$200,000 for the trail development.

There was also discussion concerning the establishment of another neighborhood meeting once Council has determined the direction they want this project to go. That is tentatively scheduled for the end of April.

There were various comments from Council concerning the project. After the review, it was the consensus of Council that the project should be done in concrete with a three-lane configuration and turn lane, and that sidewalks should be placed on both sides of Cedar Street. Also, Council requested the trail be priced separately as an option for City Council to consider. Staff will now begin the process of final review since given the direction by City Council.

The next item on the agenda was the Mad Creek Levee improvement review. City Administrator Johnson provided a brief overview concerning the project and then turned the program over to Michael Zukowski of the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Zukowski provided an overview of the project and stated they would like to advertise the project in July or early August with a September bid letting. He also advised Council that the real estate acquisition component of this project has moved a bit slower but also indicated that part of the problem was due to dealing with the railroad. Mr. Zukowski stated that railroads are traditionally very difficult when dealing with land acquisition. He also reviewed the financing mechanism the city would depend upon for providing for their share of the program cost. The City Administrator stated city staff is working with the Corps to finalize all of the necessary arrangements to put in place to meet the financial requirements for the city. Council thanked Mr. Zukowski for his time and review.

The next item on the agenda was a refuse collection option with the City of Fruitland. Solid Waste Manager Liegois was present to provide an overview of a request from the City of Fruitland to the City of Muscatine for refuse collection for residential customers. Following the review, Council asked questions concerning staffing and equipment. There appears to be very few problems associated with incorporating this activity into the city's operation and a document will be provided to both the City Council and City of Fruitland for their consideration in the near future.

Motion approved to proceed with providing refuse collection services to the City of Fruitland.

Councilmember Bynum did express concerns about the city's ability to maintain certain levels of service in the city.

The final item on the agenda was a personnel policy review. Human Resources Manager Romagnoli provided an overview of issues that will be incorporated into the personnel policy. They include lockers and desks, vacation accrual, family medical leave act, and cell phones. During the discussion, Tom Towar, Police Officer with the City of Muscatine raised questions concerning the cell phone policy and indicated the proposed \$30 per month stipend provided to the employees if they choose to provide their own cell phone was not enough. Mr. Towar had priced plans and to meet his anticipated needs as a police officer would cost \$60 per month. City Administrator Johnson stated this is an IRS requirement and that cities that have been told in the area to provide for a specific dollar amount and that the City of Muscatine's was actually \$5 higher than many other cities. At \$60, \$30 would represent 50% of the cost of the cell phone if the employee chooses to have the city pay them for use of cell phones.

Under comments, Councilmember Howard raised the issue of potential rating decrease by Moody's and other rating agencies for communities that issue debt based on the worldwide economy. Councilmembers Shihadeh and Lange wished the community a Happy Easter.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A.J. Johnson
City Administrator