

**MUSCATINE CITY COUNCIL  
IN-DEPTH MEETING - MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1995, 7:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL**

Mayor Jeanette Phillips called the January 12 city council in-depth meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present: Phil Fitzgerald, Kevin Fitzgerald, Dick O'Brien, Glenn Moench, Dan Gray, Ralph Freese, and Gary Gray. Staff present: City Administrator A.J. Johnson, Police Chief Gary Coderoni, Fire Chief Steve Dalbey, and Director of Community Development and Planning Kevin Whittaker.

The first item on the agenda for consideration and review by city council was a proposal given by Tama Nelson, New Horizons of Muscatine. The presentation was for a request for the establishment of drug free zones within the city and to designate those signs by the posting of signs. As an off-shoot of the Red Ribbon Week, Nelson said that with current federal and state laws outlining penalties for drug use and sale within a designated zone, she felt it appropriate to post signs in the community to indicate these areas. Through monies available through the New Horizons organization, eight signs can be provided for the city. The sign cost is \$11.95 per sign. In her discussions with police officials, she has identified 33 different areas within the community that would be eligible for the posting of these signs. Utilizing the signs available, she suggested they be placed at the high school, middle schools, and five to be distributed at city parks. Moved by Phil Fitzgerald, seconded by Kevin Fitzgerald to work for the placement of signs in the appropriate places and to purchase 35 additional signs by the City of Muscatine. All members voted aye. Approved 7-0.

The second item on the agenda was a presentation by Mr. Seth Huscko, 2002 Cedar Street in Muscatine. Huscko gave an overview of a teen center he would like to see established at the old Boomers establishment on Ford Avenue. Huscko feels the center is needed to provide a safe environment from drugs, alcohol and violence for teenagers. He is beginning the process of organizing a not-for-profit organization and stated he would appreciate any assistance from the city or city council members as to how to help him in this regard. He also stated that once he becomes fully established, he would like to have a letter of backing from the city concerning the establishment of the center. Kevin Fitzgerald asked if Huscko had a business plan which he indicated he was in the process of developing one. O'Brien asked the same question and stated that before he felt council could give any consideration to this issue, there would have to be something more substantive provided to council in writing. Husko thanked council for their time and will be providing additional information in the future.

The next item for council's consideration was a review of the animal control ordinance. An ad hoc committee consisting of council member Gary Gray, Gary Coderoni, Eleanor Dvorchak, Dr. Robert Hathaway, and Bill Frydrich representing the Muscatine Humane Society, had been formed to review the animal control ordinance currently in force by the City of Muscatine. They looked at licensing and fees, confinement, and other issues related to animal control activity. Dvorchak, 1229 Northwood Lane, was present to review the proposed changes with city council. Also, Frydrich gave an update on the Humane Society's

building which is currently being proposed for construction. He stated it is hoped that occupancy can take place in September 1995. After the presentation, there were questions from council concerning implementation of the proposed changes. Johnson stated he would submit those proposed changes to the city attorney for him to incorporate into the existing ordinances governing animal control, bites, licenses, etc. He anticipates a March review by city council.

The next item on the agenda was a quarterly report of activities by the Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau. Mr. Jim Sichterman, Executive Vice President of the Chamber, was introduced and gave an overview of the current Chamber programs concerning strategic plan review which incorporates the goals and objectives of the tourism division. Sichterman introduced Ginger Dahms, Director of Tourism for the Chamber of Commerce, who presented an overview of the tourism division's activities over the last quarter. She stated great emphasis has been placed on recreational sports marketing and special events. She indicated the City of Muscatine has been cited as a regional qualifying site for the Iowa games and is working with city staff in promoting other city facilities. There was also discussion concerning a possible visit by the RAGBRAI selection committee on February 5 or thereabouts to see if there is community interest for hosting the ending visit for RAGBRAI. There was also discussion about the establishment of a sports commission to go after events such as RAGBRAI, soccer tournaments, etc.

This item on the agenda was followed by a CEBA application review. E. Jane Caraway, program manager for the Muscatine Development Corporation, presented a CEBA application on behalf of Musco, Inc., of Muscatine. The application will be for \$62,500 which will be combined with other local financing mechanisms. Mr. Ron Welk, Treasurer, was present to explain the project to city council members. He indicated this would be a \$2.6 million expansion of their facilities here in Muscatine to facilitate growth in their industry. It was estimated 25 new jobs will be created. It was moved by Kevin Fitzgerald, seconded by Glenn Moench, to authorize the mayor to sign the CEBA application on behalf of the City of Muscatine. Approved 7-0.

The next item on the agenda was an overview of a proposed third fire station. Dalbey reviewed the department's recommendation for the placement of a third station in the northeast quadrant of the city. Information cited geographical and response reasons for the placement of a third station. Council requested that Dalbey provide some additional information for them to make their analysis complete. Also, reviewed was a proposed floor plan for the station. It was noted that an additional meeting room was added on to the facility but could be deleted at the request of city council. Johnson stated this issue will be discussed during budget review.

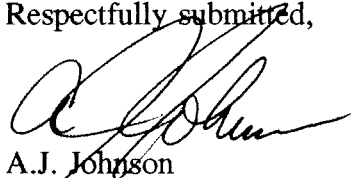
The Vision funding request was reviewed. Johnson summarized action that has taken place prior to this meeting. After some discussion, it was moved by Kevin Fitzgerald, seconded by Phil Fitzgerald to establish a Vision fund and determine the amount and how the fund will be used during the budget review process in February. Approved 7-0.

Under comments, Johnson reviewed the possible option for revisions of the minutes as reported to city council and to the press. It was noted that in the city's audit report for FY1993/94, the city is sometimes delinquent in publishing the minutes of city council meetings per state code. It was also noted that the spirit of the law had been met but not the technical aspects of the law. Staff has developed a shorter version of the city council minutes to see if they could be published faster in the newspaper. After discussion, it was determined by council to leave the minutes in their present format and to try to work out a schedule in which the city can publish the minutes faster, working either with its staff or in conjunction with the staff of the Muscatine Journal. If this process is not conducive, then it will be brought back to city council for further discussion.

Also under comments, the city administrator noted the budget review schedule had been distributed. City council was reminded that the meetings will take place as long as there are four members of city council present.

With no further business to discuss, moved by Ralph Freese, seconded by Dick O'Brien, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.J. Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

A.J. Johnson  
City Administrator