

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – May 8, 2014

Mayor DeWayne Hopkins called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday, May 8, 2014, to order at 7 p.m. Councilmembers present were Rehwaldt, Natvig, Bynum, Phillips, and Spread. Absent were Councilmembers Fitzgerald and Shihadeh. Also present were City Administrator Gregg Mandsager, Community Development Director Steve Boka, Planning and Community Development Coordinator Adam Thompson, Finance Director Nancy Lueck, and Solid Waste Manager Laura Liegois.

The first item on the agenda was a review of the Solid Waste Pilot Program by Solid Waste Manager Laura Liegois. Ms. Liegois gave an overview of the Refuse Collection Program and the move toward automated collection. She explained the benefits of automated collection and gave an update on the pilot program that began in the fall of 2013. She then outlined the proposed expansion of the program for 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017.

Councilmember Bynum stated it is good that residents will have the opportunity to rent second containers if needed.

Councilmember Rehwaldt asked how many full-time positions will be saved, and he was told two.

Councilmember Natvig stated he has received several positive comments about the pilot program.

There was further discussion concerning commercial and residential services and the associated costs.

Ms. Liegois ended her presentation with the results of Spring Cleanup Week that was held in April.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the Historic Preservation Commission's activities to date. Planning and Community Development Coordinator Adam Thompson introduced Michael Maharry who provided an update on local historical projects and the benefits of these projects to the community. City Council was told May is National Historic Preservation Month.

There were questions from City Council that were answered by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Maharry.

The final item on the agenda was a review of the Capital Improvement Program and debt issuance.

Finance Director Nancy Lueck reviewed the schedule showing estimated impacts to the city's property tax rate should additional debt be issued on June 1, 2015. She stated the impact on the tax rate would be approximately \$.07/\$1,000 of valuation for each \$500,000 of debt issued. She pointed out that bond issuance costs are incurred with each debt issue, and the issuance costs for the recent bond issue are estimated at \$44,500 (includes costs for financial advisor, bond attorney, and bond rating). Ms. Lueck then explained the process required prior to the issuance of debt.

Ms. Luck stated that most of the projects financed with the 2014 bond issue had a portion of their project costs funded from grants and include Cedar, Colorado, and airport projects. She stated that leveraging local funds with grants or other outside funding allows local dollars to go further in completing major projects.

Speaking in reference to projects in the city's CIP, city staff plans to look for outside funding to assist in financing these projects if it is available. She stated that per the previous PFM analysis, the city can issue \$2.5 million in new debt in 2016 and maintain the same debt service tax levy rate. She stated that based on interest savings from the recent bond issue, the city could issue \$3 million in 2016 and keep the same tax rate if no bond principal was paid in the first two years of the issue; however, this is something the city has been trying to avoid.

Ms. Lueck reviewed the city's current rating (Aa2) and the progress that has been made. She stated that deviations from the planned path could negatively affect the city's bond rating. She stated it is staff's recommendation the city hold off on borrowing additional funds until 2016. At that time, the city could consider bonding in excess of \$2.5 million.

There was discussion by Council concerning this issue.

Under comments, Councilmember Bynum reminded everyone of EMS Day that will be held on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Blaine's Farm & Fleet.

#22838. Councilmember Spread moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Natvig. All ayes; motion carried.

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator