

CITY OF MUSCATINE  
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m. – March 8, 2018

Mayor Broderson called the City Council meeting for Thursday, March 8, 2018, to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Spread, Harvey, Brockert, Saucedo, Brackett, Fitzgerald, Malcolm.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Broderson stated, this public hearing concerns the amendment of Ordinance No. 91191-0410 to increase the Utility Franchise Fee for Interstate Power and Light.

There were no written or oral petitions for or against the proposed amendment.

#23291. Councilmember Spread moved that the public hearing be closed. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett. All ayes: motion carried.

#23292. Councilmember Fitzgerald moved to approve the first reading of an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 91191-0410 to increase the Utility Franchise Fee for Interstate Power and Light. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett. All ayes: Councilmembers Spread, Harvey, Brockert, Saucedo, Brackett, Fitzgerald, and Malcolm. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of a Draft Resolution prepared by Councilmember Brackett to establish an ad-hoc committee to review the building permit process.

Councilmember Brackett stated he would like an ad-hoc committee to be created to review the permitting process within the City of Muscatine and Muscatine County due to the letter received from Muscatine County terminating the agreement regarding the City performing their industrial inspections.

Councilmember Spread stated that since the city has not had complaints from within City limits he feels it is overkill to create this committee. He stated that all codes and fees were adopted in open session meetings and there were no objections at that time. He stated that if the issue was with staff then it would be the City Administrator's responsibility to deal with that.

Mayor Broderson stated that she had issues brought to her from within the City. She then stated that in her non-profit employment, monthly and annual evaluations and reviews are advised and mandated and agreed that this committee would be a good idea.

Mayor Broderson also stated she had sent a letter to the county asking for an extension of the termination date, per the City Council's request, but had not heard back from them.

Councilmember Saucedo stated he was not opposed to the review but he doesn't feel the committee needs to go outside of the City Limits. He stated that because of the County terminating the agreement, the city won't be issuing permits to them anymore and the county may not even be open to talking to anyone.

Councilmember Brackett suggested that procedure number three be stricken from the draft and move forward.

Councilmember Spread stated that a member of Community Development should be involved in order to get the documents needed for the review.

Councilmember Bracket disagreed stating the committee would make a request to City Administrator Mandsager to have Community Development staff supply documents as time permits.

#23293. Councilmember Brackett moved to approve the draft resolution as submitted with the exception of line three of the procedures being removed. Seconded by Councilmember Malcolm.

Vote - Ayes: Malcolm, Brackett, Brockert, Saucedo  
Nays: Harvey, Spread, Fitzgerald  
Motion carried with four ayes.

The next item on the agenda was a demonstration of a proposed video of Mayor Broderson presenting "Our City".

Chad Yocum, 3225 Mulberry Ave., representing Media Tree, presented a sample video and stated that this would be a weekly presentation of things going on in Muscatine. He stated he would like to work with the Mayor and City Council to tell the story of Muscatine.

Mr. Yocum stated there would be no cost to the city for this production to be aired on Facebook, YouTube and the local access channel. If it was to air on the Muscatine Power and Water cable channel it would cost approximately \$50/episode to cover the cost of the technician transferring the data.

Councilmember Spread had questions regarding getting releases from anyone videoed for the production.

Mr. Yocum stated they would make sure to get information and to cover that issue.

Councilmember Saucedo asked if this would replace "Coffee with the Mayor".

Mayor Broderson stated they are two different programs. Coffee with the Mayor is a discussion where citizens can ask questions. The video production is to get the right information out to the citizens and to promote what is happening in our city. Mayor Broderson stated she would like members of City Staff to be a part of the videos and talk about what is going on in their departments.

Communication Manager Kevin Jenison came forward to say that anytime the Mayor and City Council members say something positive about Muscatine it is a good thing, Mr. Jenison stated there are many great stories about our city that the public does not know about. He stated he would be overseeing this project to ensure quality and to help set up interviews.

There was discussion among Councilmembers on ways to know how many viewers were watching from various sites.

Kevin Jenison encouraged everyone to sign up for the Muscatine You Tube Channel and to like the Muscatine Facebook page, both great sources of information.

#23294 Councilmember Saucedo proposed a 90-day trial period at which time City Council would re-evaluate. Seconded by Councilmember Brackett. All ayes: Motion carried.

At this time Public Works Director Brian Stineman came forward to start a discussion regarding the proposed removal of on street parking on Leroy Street.

Mr. Stineman explained briefly who serves on the traffic committee and what happens when they get complaints and suggestions. He stated the traffic committee does research and tries to come to a quick and cost-effective solution to the problem.

Mr. Stineman stated they had received three complaints regarding the parking on Leroy. Those complaints consisted of it being a tight space to get through and it being difficult to back out of driveways.

Mr. Stineman read a letter he had received from Christine Weber regarding her opinion and complaints about the on-street parking.

There was discussion among the City Council members regarding traffic studies, possibility of extending the no parking zone difficult areas, widening the street, number of traffic accidents, and if there were other options.

At this time citizens were allowed to come forward to voice their opinions.

Stephanie Balagna, 825 Leroy Street, stated she supported the no parking proposal. She stated this is a very busy road and a cut-off for many going to Grant School and the Hospital. She stated with so much traffic having cars parked on the street makes it difficult for vehicles to get through and they are going into oncoming traffic to go around parked cars. Ms. Balagna also stated that the speed on Leroy needs to be addressed.

Chad Klein, 913 Leroy, stated he has lived in this neighborhood for eight years. He stated he owns two cars and only has a one car driveway and has to park one car on the street. Mr. Klein said he has no other place to park his second car.

Tom Reufer, 608 Leroy Street, stated that if the City were to take away the on-street parking it would decrease the property value of the residence by 20-30%. Mr. Reufer said in his opinion it is not that there is not enough space to drive rather people need to learn how to drive better in that area. Mr. Reufer also stated that speed is a big issue on Leroy Street.

Angel Nguyen, 603 Leroy Street, stated that if the city takes away the on-street parking there would be no place for any visitors to park. Ms. Nguyen stated that with the speed problem already, taking away the parking would make it worse. She stated that having the parked cars on the side of the street actually slows the traffic down.

Deb Ortiz, 713 Lucas, stated she lives at the elbow in the street. She agreed that speed is a problem and has had cars end up in her yard because of speeding. Ms. Ortiz suggested that instead of the black speed car being used that more officers patrol the area with lights to deter speeding in the area. Ms. Ortiz stated that she enjoys entertaining and has done a great deal of work in her yard to make it a great place to entertain. If the on-street parking is taken away she will have no place for her guests to park.

Jill Reynolds, 207 Amherst, stated there is no other option for Leroy residents to park. She stated that there are many children in the area that walk to school and without the parked cars the traffic would move much faster making it unsafe for these children.

Gary Schrock, 896 Leroy St, stated that he shares a driveway with his neighbor and has to be careful not to block them in or out of the driveway. He stated that they have three cars and without on-street

parking he would have to park one of his cars in his yard. Mr. Schrock also brought up that if his elderly mother was to come for a visit there would be no place close for her to park.

At this time Public Works Director Brian Stineman came forward to begin a discussion on reopening Whicher Street. Mr. Stineman stated that with the West Hill Sewer Separation Project 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets will both be closed creating the need for detour routes. He stated that reopening Whicher would be a good route for the detour. Mr. Stineman asked for a consensus to approve going forward with research and gathering information on what it would take to reopen this street.

Councilmember Brockert asked what plan B would be if this did not work.

Mr. Stineman stated they had mapped out a couple of different detour routes and both would be longer and inconvenient.

City Council asked if this would be a temporary or permanent opening of Whicher Street.

Mr. Stineman stated that if we were going to go through the work and money that it would be permanent.

Councilmember Saucedo stated he would like to get input from residents in that area before making a final decision and would like to view the other detour routes available.

There was a consensus from City Council to allow Public Works Director Brian Stineman to continue gathering information and costs regarding the opening of Whicher Street.

Under Comments:

Councilmember Spread thanked everyone for coming out to vote. He stated it was a successful election and was pleased that the Local Option Sales Tax passed.

Councilmember Brockert stated she would like to echo what Councilmember Spread said.

Councilmember Brackett thanked those that came out and voted and stated they there is work being done on the Muscatine Soap Box Derby and to watch for details.

Councilmember Saucedo commented on the new quiet zone, stating that it is a good thing for our community and thanked staff for working hard to get that accomplished.

Mayor Broderson stated she would be leaving on vacation and that Councilmember Harvey would be sitting in for her at the next council meeting.

Mayor Broderson reminded citizens that the next Coffee with the Mayor would be held at 9:00 a.m on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Happy Joes.

Councilmember Harvey moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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Nancy Lueck, Acting City Clerk