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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Loebsack hears of City's concern over federal budget

Congressman meets with officials, tours sites in Muscatine

MUSCATINE, Iowa – One of the greatest accomplishments for Muscatine, and one that is not present in a lot of smaller communities, has been the willingness of local business to be actively involved with local government in creating a better community for all residents.

That was the conclusion during a meeting between Iowa Congressman David Loebsack (D-IA-02) and city officials during his stop at the Muscatine City Hall Tuesday afternoon. The main focus of the meeting was to discuss the federal budget and Loebsack wanted to hear of Muscatine's concerns which he will take back to Washington.

"People on both sides of the aisle are concerned about what's going on in Washington," Loebsack said. "Honestly I don't know what is going to happen. The Trump administration gave us a skinny budget which is just an overview and we can expect that to be a lot thicker and revised later on. But right now we have a government shutdown looming and we are not in Washington trying to solve it. We are going to have to take care of that before we can discuss the budget."

Muscatine, like most cities in the United States, has questions about certain funds that will affect what they can and cannot do and how they can help or not help their constituents.

While the availability of federal money is still questionable, the idea that the city has been able to combine public and private money in funding projects for Muscatine, something that has historically worked well to the benefit of residents.



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“The corporations in Muscatine have always been vested in this community,” Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator, said. “Each one has been a major partner and we have seen our community benefit from this partnership.”

Two programs that Mandsager questioned Loeb sack about was the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recover (TIGER) grant program and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Community Development Director Dave Gobin mentioned that the City was able to use a \$500,000 CDBG grant and parlay that into a privately backed \$29 million investment in upgrading the infrastructure of the downtown area.

Public Housing Director Jodi Royal-Goodwin spoke about her concerns with HUD funding and her problems in working with HUD officials on maintenance issues at facilities managed by the City of Muscatine.

“That is something that I think we can help you with,” Loeb sack told her.

Other issues of concern and projects in development were discussed during the meeting including raising the levees from the MPW power plant south to a 500 year flood level, the Port of Muscatine feasibility study, Mississippi Drive corridor project, and the Grandview corridor project.