

CITY OF MUSCATINE
IN-DEPTH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
7:00 p.m. – June 9, 2022

Mayor Bark called the In-Depth City Council meeting for Thursday June 9, 2022, to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Councilmembers Hopkins, Gordon, Jindrich, Osborne, Brockert, Froelich and Lewis.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Dabeet, President of Muscatine Sister Cities, gave an update on Sister Cities. Mr. Dabeet stated that the Sister Cities program celebrated 35 years in 2021 and held special events monthly to celebrate a different city. Mr. Dabeet stated he is looking forward to working with Mayor Bark to bring Sister Cities to a new level and thanked the City of Muscatine for all of the support they have given to the organization.

John Hesseling, Police Sargent, was present to share information regarding the MSORT (Muscatine Special Operations Response Team) program. Sgt. Hesseling shared how the team was developed and how moving forward to a multi-jurisdictional team will help not only Muscatine but the surrounding area. There were questions and comments from City Councilmembers following the presentation that were addressed by Sgt. Hesseling.

Brian Stineman, Public Works Director, was present to give a presentation on the current Sidewalk Program. Mr. Stineman shared the current policies and procedures regarding sidewalk repairs and installation and who is responsible for maintaining sidewalks. Mr. Stineman discussed the upcoming plans for sidewalk work and the amount the City spends annually on sidewalks.

There were comments from City Council requesting that areas near schools be prioritized for the safety of the children walking to and from school. Mr. Stineman stated he is working with the school to find grants that would help to complete sidewalk gaps in crucial areas.

Andrew Fangman, Assistant Community Development Director, was present to share an overview of the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. Mr. Fangman stated he is working on maps of all the sidewalks and trails in the City of Muscatine to use for evaluating where construction needs to take place to offer non motorized travel for residents. City Councilmembers had comments regarding citizens looking forward to more areas for walking and biking and questions regarding if bike lanes could be added to some City Streets. Mr. Fangman stated bike lanes could be added but it would require removing on street parking.

Brian Stineman, Public Works Director gave an update on the Fulliam Avenue Reconstruction Project. Mr. Stineman shared a proposal to use Road Tax Funds to fund three phases over three years. Mr. Stineman stated this would reduce the number of patches in other areas. Mr. Stineman stated the construction for each phase would take place during summer break as to avoid traffic issues during the school year. There were questions from City Councilmembers regarding bringing back discussion on a roundabout at Fulliam and Houser, the possibility of reapplying for grants for the intersection and could the original design still be used,

that were addressed by Mr. Stineman. Mr. Stineman stated he would look into that and bring it back to another meeting. Mr. Stineman asked for a consensus to move forward with the Fulliam Reconstruction Project and a consensus was met to move forward with research on the cost for the project.

The final item on the agenda was a review of the Fireworks policies for the City of Muscatine by Assistant Fire Chief Mike Hartman. Mr. Hartman gave an overview of the rules and regulations around the use of fireworks on private property and stated they are not allowed on any public property. Mr. Hartman shared the PD would be out enforcing the fireworks policy and would be giving citations to those not in compliance. There were comments from City Councilmembers regarding restricting the use of fireworks to less time than the current policy allows.

Sgt. Hesseling stated that the PD would be out with a no tolerance policy and if you get caught you will get a ticket.

City Administrator Webb stated that Council could look into changing the policy but that it would be too late for this year and would have to be for next year.

Councilmember Brockert shared upcoming events in the Muscatine area this week.

Councilmember Froelich motioned the meeting be adjourned at 8:48 pm.

ALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECORDINGS ARE VIEWABLE ON THE CITY OF MUSCATINE YOUTUBE PAGE.

Dr. Brad Bark, Mayor

Attest:

Carol Webb, City Administrator