



City of Muscatine

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, January 12, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bark called the City Council In-Depth meeting for January 12, 2023 to order at 06:00 PM

2. **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Nadine Brockert, John Jindrich, Jeff Osborne, Peggy Gordon, Angie Lewis, Dennis Froelich, DeWayne Hopkins. Mayor Dr. Brad Bark, City Administrator Carol Webb and Administrative Secretary Cinda Hilger were also present.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Iowa Businesses and Child Care Presentation by Iowa Women's Foundation (Dawn Oliver, Sheri Penney, Deann Cook)

Dawn Oliver, Sheri Penney and Deann Cook from the Iowa Women's Foundation were present to share a presentation with Council regarding Iowa businesses and Child Care. This presentation showed data regarding the lack of childcare available in our state and community and the effect that has on businesses and the economy. Ms. Oliver shared resources for businesses and community to use in working to invest in better child care options.

Councilmember Brockert had questions regarding the need for care of special needs children and the training that it takes to be able to care for them that were addressed by Ms. Oliver and Ms. Cook.

- B. Update - Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine South End Improvement Fund Projects

Rich Klimes, Parks and Recreation Director, was present to give City Council an update on the Muscatine South End Improvement Fund Projects. Mr. Klimes stated that many of the projects are completed and others are on hold due to supply chain issues causing delays in equipment. Mr. Klimes shared that most of the projects should be completed during the Spring of 2023.

Councilmember Brockert had questions regarding security cameras in the parks that were addressed by Mr. Klimes. He stated that what was in the plan was being worked on.

Councilmember Lewis had questions regarding the shelter at the Municipal Golf Course that were addressed by Mr. Klimes. Mr. Klimes stated funding was being looked into for replacement of the bathroom and shelter placement at the golf course.

C. Discussion of Round About Concept at Carver Corner

Brian Stineman, Public Works Director and Pat Lynch, City Engineer were present to present a roundabout concept to the City Council for Carver Corner. Mr. Stineman stated that this concept had been presented previously but now due to the construction starting at Carver Corner consideration as to traffic flow needs to be addressed as it will affect elevation of roadway and site entrances to McKee Button and Merge Development.

City Council had questions regarding the amount of right of way the City would need as well as the possible demolition of structures on Green Street.

There was a consensus with City Council to move forward with the design of a roundabout at Carver Corner.

D. Courtesy Sidewalk Discussion

Public Works Director Brian Stineman and City Engineer Pat Lynch were present to answer questions regarding the City's policy on courtesy sidewalks. Mr. Stineman gave an overview of what a courtesy sidewalk is and why the City is no longer replacing them if removed due to construction. Mr. Stineman stated that the past City Engineer interpreted the regulations and guidelines for sidewalks differently than the current engineer and feels that by re-installing courtesy sidewalks would be a violation of Multiple Federal regulations putting the City at risk for litigation.

Councilmembers shared complaints and issues they have received from Citizens regarding the loss of their courtesy sidewalks and the safety issues and inconvenience of not having one.

Mr. Stineman stated residents would be allowed to put pavers in as a stepping path without breaking code and regulations but they would be responsible for the maintenance of them as well.

City Administrator stated that City Council could change the City Policy regarding Courtesy sidewalks but it would take extensive research.

Mr. Lynch stated he would not sign off on courtesy sidewalks because it could affect his professional engineer certification.

Councilmember Osborne suggested for the West Hill Project only, that the City replace the courtesy sidewalks with pavers. City Administrator Webb stated staff would look into the cost of this for council's consideration.

City Councilmembers agreed to move forward following the current City Code as written and interpreted by the City Engineer.

E. Update: Grandview Corridor Project

Jodi Royal Goodwin, Community Development Director, and Public Works

Director Brian Stineman, gave an overview of the Grandview Corridor project pillars, which include Reconstruction Project, Economic Development, Business Support and Residential Support. Ms. Royal-Goodwin shared information regarding forgivable loans for small businesses along the corridor, support for meeting needs of residents, activity grants for the neighborhood associations as well as other services provided.

Mr. Stineman stated the construction phase is mostly complete with the exception of sidewalk and landscaping. Mr. Stineman shared that the contractor would finish in the spring, followed by installation of street lights and the project being finalized by June 2023.

F. Staff Report - SeeClickFix Implementation

Communication Manager Kevin Jenison, gave a demonstration of the City's new request program, SeeClickFix. Mr. Jenison stated this program is more user friendly and would result in better communication with citizens regarding resolving requests and complaints received.

5. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Dennis Froelich moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:58 PM