

CITY OF MUSCATINE
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET REVIEW SESSION
Virtual Meeting – January 31, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Brad Bark called the meeting for the City Council's budget review session for Tuesday, January 31, 2022, to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Osborne, Lewis, Hopkins, Brockert, Froelich, Gordon and Jindrich.

Parks Administration

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the Parks Administration proposed budget.

Parks and Recreation Director Rich Klimes introduced his full-time staff and gave an overview of activities throughout the year.

Parks Maintenance

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the Parks Administration Proposed budget.

Superintendent of Parks Nick Gow answered questions from council regarding work performed on the elevator at Riverview Center.

Mr. Gow stated there had been many returning and new activities utilizing the parks over 2022 to include: Food truck fight, weddings, HNI picnic, almost Friday Fest and many more.

Mr. Gow shared that the parks department had received \$25,000 in tree grants in 2022.

Councilmember Froelich had questions regarding bank stabilization at Weed Park. Mr. Gow stated that they would be dredging the lagoon, replacing pipes and then putting rip rap around the lagoon to finish it off.

Aquatic Center

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the projected Aquatic Center budget.

Program Supervisor Kelsie Stafford stated 2022 was a great year for the aquatic center with only 1 rain date. She stated there was a 19% increase in total attendance.

Ms. Stafford stated that lifeguard recruitment is still an issue they are dealing with and hopes that the increase in pay plan will help attract more applicants.

Council had questions regarding life of the pool and what improvements to the pool will be made in the upcoming years.

Mr. Klimes stated that the life expectancy of the pool is 50 years and this will be year 20 for the Muscatine aquatic center. He stated there are plans to evaluate the structures within the pool for improvement or replacement but they are on hold waiting on assessments.

Recreation

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the projected Recreation budget.

Program Supervisor Kelsie Stafford stated there has been a significant increase in Community events.

Soccer

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the projected soccer budget.

Athletic Facilities Supervisor, Jeff Limburg shared information regarding the GPS field liner and how that would save on staff hours. Mr. Limburg stated that the current ride on blower is shared between departments and the need to have one for the parks facilities.

Mr. Limburg stated the hours for the use of the soccer complex had increased in 2022.

Mayor Bark had questions regarding the bid for Concessionaires and if there had been any received.

Mr. Klimes stated that they had not received any bids at this time but would be hosting a pre-bid meeting in hopes of answering some questions and encouraging bids.

There was discussion with council regarding the possibility of a small business expansion or new business loan that could help getting a group to take the concessions over.

Mr. Hopkins had questions regarding the City of Muscatine hosting the High School State Soccer tournament that were addressed by Mr. Klimes. Mr. Klimes stated the school has to be in charge of that and that they have not shown any interest or support in hosting.

Kent Stein

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Kent Stein Budget.

Athletic Facilities Supervisor Jeff Limburg stated that Kent Stein had held fewer tournaments in 2022, but that it did not affect the usage hours for the facility.

Wellness

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Wellness Budget.

Program Supervisor Kelsie Stafford stated the participation had remained equal to the previous year.

Ms. Stafford states she reviews the City insurance claims and uses the top 4 claim types to design wellness activities to help with these issues.

There was discussion among council suggesting using incentives such as free pool passes and free golf.

Councilmember Lewis suggested partnering with local businesses for discounts on wellness related equipment and possible using automatic paycheck withdrawals to help employees purchase said items.

Cemetery

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Cemetery Budget.

Mr. Gow stated that it was getting difficult to find seasonal staff for the cemetery and hoped the pay increase would help attract new applicants. =

Golf Course/Clubhouse

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Golf Course Budget.

Golf Professional Brian Kuddes stated that the golf course had a rough start to 2022 with a very rainy spring and trying to get seasonal staffing.

Council had questions regarding the simulator and golf club rentals that were addressed by Mr. Kuddes

There was discussion regarding increases in rates and where Muscatine compared with fees charged by other golf courses nearby. Council agreed to the increase in rates but stated in future years maybe tone down the increases on season passes.

There was discussion with council regarding the increase in seasonal pay plan and if they would approve in order for the parks department to advertise the open positions with the new pay plan. City Council agreed to move forward with the new payplan.

Brett Parcher was present to discuss Golf Course Maintenance. He stated the golf course is in great shape at this time but would need to replace the irrigation system in the near future.

Council had questions regarding better weed control at the golf course that were addressed by Mr. Parcher.

Councilmember Froelich suggested having a volunteer day at the golf course for spring cleanup and stated that he knew several regular golfers that would be more than willing to participate. Mr. Klimes stated that was a great idea and they would work on setting that in motion.

Boat Harbor

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Boat Harbor Budget.

Program Supervisor Kelsie Stafford stated that the Boat Harbor had been using DOCKWA for marketing services for the Muscatine Boat Harbor, but with the increase in cost does not feel it is cost effective to continue.

Marina

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Marina Budget

Nick Gow states the gas dock continues to be successful as it is the only gas dock in our pool.

Soccer Events

Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Soccer Events Budget.

Ms. Stafford explained changes being made to the College Search Kickoff for this year. She stated it would be a smaller event of only 2 days rather than 4 with the hopes of rebuilding it back to more days in the future. She stated they had contacted thousands of teams and coaches via emails for recruitment.

Councilmember Froelich moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m

Respectfully submitted:
Cinda Hilger
Administrative Secretary