



City of Muscatine

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bark called the City Council meeting for March 9, 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. Overview of Proposed International Fire Code update

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Hartman was present to share an overview of the 2021 International Fire Code being proposed for adoption by the City of Muscatine. Mr. Hartman stated that the new code offers clarification, Flexibility and more options to achieve code compliance. He shared that the new code identifies changing technology by addressing 3-d printed housing, energy storage systems (solar) and storage of distilled spirits and wines that had not been addressed in the past.

Mr. Hartman states that the international code is updated every three years and it has been the practice of the City of Muscatine to adopt the new code every 6 years.

City Councilmembers had questions regarding when the code would take effect and if there would be a grandfather clause for existing residents, If there were special codes for historical buildings, how much upgrading in a building would require an upgrade to current code that were all addressed by Assistant Chief Hartman.

There was a consensus with City Council to continue research with the possibility of adopting the 2021 International Fire Code. City Council stated they approved getting public input on this proposal but were not ready to commit to setting a public hearing and approval at this time. Assistant Chief Hartman will bring this item back to City Council after review of public input.

B. Overview of Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program

Captain Jeff Jirak, Muscatine Police Department, was present to give an overview of the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program.

Mr. Jirak stated that in 2017 the Federal Government allowed for money to be put forward to be used for Mental Health issues in Law Enforcement settings.

Mr. Jirak shared how the increase in high profile trauma events has increased the need for mental health programs for all first responders. Mr. Jirak shared how the volunteer peer support team was created and information regarding the diverse group of members that make up the team. Mr. Jirak stated he is working on a grant for funds to be used for the program that would be 100% funded with no city match.

There were no questions or comments from City Council.

C. City Participation in the Choose Green Business Program

Jon Koch, WPCP and Gage Huston, MPW were present to share with City Council a proposal to enter into the Choose Green Business Program being offered through MPW Solar 1 Program. Mr. Koch shared that the WPCP uses approximately 6 million kw of power per year and is the highest power user of all the City buildings. Mr. Koch proposes that the City enter into this program by committing to a number of solar blocks to support the WPCP. Mr. Koch explained that it would take 23 blocks to fully support the WPCP, however only 2.5 blocks remain available at this time. Mr. Huston stated that there is a possibility that more blocks could be available in the future. The cost for the 2.5 blocks would be \$7,000.00 annually.

The City Council consented to moving forward by participating in The Solar 1 Program at a level up to 12 blocks.

5. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**