



City of Muscatine

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, June 8, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bark called the City Council meeting for June 8, 2023 to order at 06:00 PM.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Nadine Brockert, John Jindrich, Jeff Osborne, Peggy Gordon, Angie Lewiw (virtually), Dennis Froelich, DeWayne Hopkins. Mayor Dr. Brad Bark and City Administrator Carol Webb were also present.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding the Possible Disposal of City Owned Property on 8th Street

Community Development Director Jodi Royal-Goodwin gave an overview of the property located on West 8th Street that was purchased by the City in order to facilitate part of the West Hill Sewer Separation Project. She states that she is coming tonight to get directions from the Council on the disposal of said property at this time. Does the Council wish to sell property at market value (\$140,000), work with a non-profit organization, and what types of stipulations would the council want to address with the sale?

City Council had questions regarding division of the property, working with Habitat for Humanity, and sale of the extra lot that were addressed by Jodi Royal-Goodwin.

The council stated they would like to get rid of the property as soon as possible. Give the agencies interested an option and if they don't move on it then put it on the market.

B. Review of Feedback from Contractors Meeting on the Proposed Building Code Update and Next Steps

Nick Morgan, Seth Gillette and Andy Oien from Community Development were present to give an overview of the responses from the Contractor meeting and proposals to move forward with the adoption of new 2021 international building codes. Mr. Gillette stated there were many questions from contractors

regarding engineering requirements, the sprinkler regulations, GFCI requirements, establishment of an appeals board and incorporating existing building considerations and if exemptions could be made in the code. These questions were addressed by Mr. Gillette.

City Council also had questions regarding other towns near us that have adopted the 2021 codes that were addressed by Mr. Gillette. Andy Oien discussed codes in regards to historic buildings.

Councilmember Osborne - Suggest the City adopt the state of Iowa's Historic Building Codes for the City of Muscatine now and have further discussion on the adoption of 2021 codes.

City Council had a consensus to gather more information before moving forward with the 2021 code adoption as well as gathering more information regarding the Historic building code.

C. Overview of Crime Free Multi-Housing Program

Nicole Sink and Vince Motto- Muscatine Police Department shared an overview of the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. She stated the goals of this program are to reduce crime, drug activity and gang activity in the community, to build strong relationships with landlords and property owners and to provide resources to landlords and property owners to make their places safe. Ms. Sink stated the three phases to the program are Management Training, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Survey, and social safety/Community Awareness Training.

There were questions from Council regarding what can be done to help with the program that were addressed by Ms. Sink and Mr. Motto.

D. Public Art Overview and Recommendations

Melanie Alexander - Art Center Director and staff member to the Public Art Advisory Commission, gave a presentation on the Public Art Advisory Commission. Jim Elias, member of Public Art Advisory Commission shared regarding pieces of art that have been installed in the City of Muscatine to include statues, murals, poems on sidewalks, bridge light installation as well as temporary art installations.

Ms. Alexander then reviewed processes managed by the Public Art Advisory Commission to include the art sculpture at the Mulberry Roundabout and the mural on retaining wall on Houser Street.

Ms. Alexander shared the recommendations presented by the Public Art Advisory Commission.

There were questions and comments from City Council regarding funding for public art, using a percent of capital projects towards public art,

The council stated they would like more information regarding the framework around mural standards, recommendations on funding public art and rough ideas on cost and approach to a public art master plan.

E. Central Business District Parking Overview

Nancy Lueck, Director of Finance, gave an overview of the current Central

Business District Parking System and the goals of the parking ordinances and enforcement operations. Ms. Lueck reviewed the process used by staff for writing tickets, collection of fines and the process used for appealing a parking ticket. Ms. Lueck reviewed the income received yearly from parking fees and fines. Ms. Lueck shared information on considerations for updates to parking configurations and equipment and possible funding for these upgrades. Ms. Lueck then asked what direction City Council would like to move forward with in regards to the parking in downtown Muscatine.

City Council had questions and discussions regarding types of complaints received from citizens, nonworking meetings, making meters into public art, using an app to track time on meters and types of upgraded meters available.

City Council consented to moving forward with looking at improvements to technology for the parking meters.

5. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

6. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Dennis Froelich moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m