



# City of Muscatine

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

### Thursday, October 12, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bark called the City Council meeting for October 12, 2023 to order at 06:00 PM.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: John Jindrich, Jeff Osborne, Peggy Gordon, Angie Lewis, Dennis Froelich, DeWayne Hopkins. Councilmembers Absent: Nadine Brockert. 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 Budget Basis Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2023  
Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave a presentation of the Budget Basis Financial Statements for the Year ended June 30, 2023. City Councilmembers had questions regarding reasons why some accounts ended unfavorably. Ms. Lueck stated that several departments incurred unexpected repairs, or purchases that had not been budgeted for. City Administrator Webb stated that the city is working on a preventative maintenance schedule to reduce some of the unexpected repairs that occur.

City Council members had questions regarding how the increase in property taxes would affect the City and both Ms. Lueck and Ms. Webb stated it is still up in the air with so many unknowns at this time.

Councilmember Osborn asked Ms. Lueck for a refresher of what the ARPA funds could be used for.

- B. Presentation on Sidewalk Inventory Project and Discussion on Future Sidewalk Program and Funding Options

Public Works Director Brian Stineman gave a presentation on the sidewalk inventory program. Mr. Stineman shared data collected regarding 5 areas of the city regarding missing and damaged sidewalks. He shared information regarding what the cost would be to install all missing sidewalks and to repair damaged sidewalks. Mr. Stineman asked for input from City Council on how they would

like to move forward and had questions regarding how they would like repairs/installations prioritized, how they would anticipate funding of the project, and would they support a cost share option with residents.

There were questions from City Councilmembers regarding what determines a sidewalk being in need of repair, what the cost share would be, number of complaints received yearly for damaged sidewalks, and prioritizing areas that are the greatest safety issues.

Council agreed to move forward with complaint driven improvements while staff looks into options of cost sharing and creating a system for prioritizing and implementing the sidewalk program. Council requested for Capital Projects that sidewalk repairs be included in the funding for the project.

C. Update related to Canadian Pacific Railway's Acquisition of Kansas City Southern Railway and related Community Investment and Settlement Agreement

City Administrator Carol Webb shared an update on the merger with Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern Railway. Ms. Webb gave a summary of the background of the merger up to now. Ms. Webb shared results from the environmental review process that was performed and what adverse impacts could be seen from the merger.

Ms. Webb stated Canadian Pacific Railway has given the City three million dollars for mitigation in regards to the potential adverse impacts on the City of Muscatine. Half of this money is to be used as a match for a grade separation at one crossing while the remaining amount can be used for other items such as increasing the length of the quiet zone into the South Side of Muscatine.

Ms. Webb stated there are strict guidelines that are set for the railway to follow which makes it crucial for citizens to report violations of regulations.

City Council directed staff to move forward with investigating the costs associated with increasing the quiet zone area at this time and possibly starting to work on implementing the quiet zone project.

D. City Boards and Commissions Improvements

City Administrator Carol Webb gave a presentation on potential improvements to the Boards and Commissions. Ms. Webb reviewed the purpose of the voluntary boards, how the boards are governed, the different types of boards, the role/responsibility of the members and the following recommendations moving forward.

- \* Creation of a set of general by-laws for governing the boards and commissions.
- \* Attendance requirements ( may include adding zoom meetings or reducing the number of meetings being held)
- \* Creation of a Code of Conduct for members
- \* New Member onboarding process
- \* Creation of a Boards and Commission Handbook
- \* Member Recognition

City Council supported moving forward with making these changes.

5. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember None moved the meeting be adjourned at 08:10 PM.