



City of Muscatine

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, January 4, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bark called the City Council meeting for January 4, 2024 to order at 06:00 PM.

2. **INVOCATION**

3. **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Nadine Brockert, John Jindrich, DeWayne Hopkins, Jeff Osborne, Peggy Gordon, Angie Lewis, Don Lampe, Matt Conard. Mayor Dr. Brad Bark, and City Administrator Carol Webb were also present.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

5. **FROM THE MAYOR**

- A. Proclamation for Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
Megan Francis, President of Rotary Club was present to accept the proclamation and share awareness of human trafficking.

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND/OR AS AMENDED**

Councilmember Peggy Gordon, seconded by Councilmember Jeff Osborne moved to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes -7, Nays - 0, Motion Passed.

7. **COMMUNICATIONS - CITIZENS**

Sandy Grady 1503 Houser Street was present to share concerns of former Welch Apartment residents and getting their personal belongings out of the building. Ms. Grady was concerned with the security of the building and requested information on who residents could contact to find out more information regarding what is happening with the building.

Zack Petersen with 1003 East Washington Street Iowa City Ia, Teamsters Union Representative, was present to share wage and employment trends in the local region.

8. COUNCILMEMBER FOLLOW UP TO CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Councilmember Osborne stated he received contact information from Welch Apartments and states he will be contacting them to get information and will pass this on to former residents.

Councilmember Osborne gave feedback regarding the compensation study and stated Council and Staff were working on balancing the budget while addressing the compensation study.

Councilmember Gordon thanked Sandy Grady for her concerns and for standing up regarding the Welch Apartments.

9. CONSENT AGENDA * (ITEMS 10-14)

Councilmember Peggy Gordon, seconded by Councilmember Nadine Brockert, moved to approve the Consent Agenda including Items 10-14. Ayes - 7 , Nays - 0, Motion Passed.

10. * REVIEW AND POTENTIAL VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES

- A. December 27, 2023, Special City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. December 21, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

11. * PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Request on second reading on a new Class "E" Retail Alcohol License for Super Savor Liquor, 1510 Isett Avenue – Map Family LLC (pending inspections)
- B. Request for renewal of a Class "E" Retail Alcohol License for GM Food Mart, 1814 E Avenue – Thapa Investment LLC (pending inspections)
- C. Request for renewal of a Class "C" Retail Alcohol License and Outdoor Service for Las Lomas, 1519 Park Avenue - Juan, Inc. (pending inspections and insurance)
- D. Request for renewal of a Class "C" Retail Alcohol License and Outdoor Service for Guadalajara Restaurant, 208 East 2nd Street – Vazquez Enterprise Inc. (pending inspections and insurance)
- E. **CIGARETTE/TOBACCO PERMITS JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024**
COUNCIL APPROVAL – JANUARY 04, 2024

- 1. Greenleaf Tobacco and Vape, 2016 Cedar Plaza Drive – IA Trade Inc.
- 2. Greenleaf Tobacco and Vape, 1608 Grandview Avenue – IA Trade Inc.

12. * COMMUNICATION – RECEIVE AND FILE

- A. Muscatine County Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes - December 18, 2024

13. * PURCHASE ORDERS

14. * APPROVAL OF BILLS

- A. January 4, 2024 Bills for Approval

15. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Public Hearing for Comments Regarding the City of Muscatine Wayfinding Master Plan

There were no written or oral comments regarding this public hearing.
Councilmember Jeff Osborne, seconded by Councilmember John Jindrich, moved for the public hearing to be closed. Vote: Ayes - 7, Nays - None, Motion Passed.

16. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

17. FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. Resolution Adopting the City of Muscatine Wayfinding Master Plan
Councilmember Gordon had comments regarding the Wayfinding Plan. She states she would like to add University and Hwy 22 to the plan. Ms. Gordon stated she had concerns with the design not coordinating or blending in with the designs on Mississippi Drive.
Brian Stineman and representatives from Corbin Design were present to address the ways the signage was changed to blend with existing signs. Jeff Frank from Corbin design explained how they had designed structures to be retro-fitted on the existing structures on Mississippi Drive. Mr. Frank also explained how the signs are made to be updated as needed if the City logo were to change.
Councilmember Osborne stated he is in favor of moving forward with the plan and the design that was selected by Council at a previous meeting.
Councilmember Lewis in favor of moving forward with the design that was chosen by Council previously.
Councilmember Jeff Osborne, seconded by Councilmember Nadine Brockert moved to Adopt the Resolution.
Vote: Ayes - 6, Nays - 1 (Gordon), Motion Passed.

18. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmembers stated their thoughts and prayers were with the members of Perry Iowa in the wake of the school shooting this week.

Councilmember Jeff Osborne stated with the upcoming budget preparation he would like to see City staff evaluate current contracts and see if they could be rebid to another vendor that could possibly save the City financially.

City Administrator Webb asked had questions for Councilmember Osborne regarding his request.

Councilmember Jindrich requested a list of contractors used by the city, and Ms. Webb stated they could get that distributed to the City Council for their review.

A. Discussion on Possible Changes to the City's Ordinance Regarding UTVs.

City Administrator Webb stated a stakeholder had asked about lifting the ban of UTV's on Park Avenue and Dick Drake Way and wanted to get Councilmembers thoughts regarding this. Chief Kies was present to state that since the passing of the ordinance allowing for use of UTV's within the City there have been no issues.

Councilmember Lampe suggested a trial period of lifting the ban to evaluate the changes prior to making the change permanent.

There was a consensus with City Council to move forward with drafting an ordinance lifting the ban of UTV's on Park Avenue and Dick Drake Way.

19. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Request to enter closed session per Iowa Code Section 21.5.1.c with possible action to follow in open session, to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent and where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in the litigation and in accordance with Iowa Code Section 622.10 to discuss attorney/client privileged and attorney work product matters with legal counsel.**

Councilmember Peggy Gordon, seconded by Councilmember John Jindrich moved to To enter Closed Session.

Vote: Ayes - 7, Nays - 0, Motion Passed.

Council entered Closed session at 6:50 pm.

Attorney Eric Updegraf

Councilmembers present were Angie Lewis, Nadine Brockert, John Jindrich, Peggy Gordon, Matt Conard, Jeff Osborne, and Don Lampe. City Administrator Carol Webb, Finance Director Nancy Lueck and Human Resources Manager Stephanie Romagnoli were also present.

Councilmembers discussed the matter in litigation.

Councilmember Gordon Seconded by Councilmember Lewis moved to exit Closed Session at 7:00 pm. .

Vote: Ayes - 7, Nays - 0, Motion Passed.

Councilmember Gordon motioned to approve for the City Administrator and Mayor to sign a settlement release agreement between the City of Muscatine and the Plaintiff (currently a minor) for \$40,000 related to a personal injury, pursuant to court approval. Seconded by Councilmember Osborne.

Vote: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Motion Passed.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Peggy Gordon moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:02 pm.

- A. Exempt Session - Exempt Session Pursuant to Iowa code 20.17(3) and Iowa Code 21.9 to Discuss Collective Bargaining Strategy and Employment Conditions.