City of Muscatine

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Mayor Bark called the City Council budget review meeting for February 7, 2024 to order at 06:00 PM.

2. **ROLL CALL**
   Councilmembers Present: Brockert, Conard, Jindrich, Lewis, Lampe, Gordon, and Osborne.

3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

   A. Park Administration
   Park Maintenance
   Aquatic Center
   Recreation
   Soccer
   Kent Stein
   Wellness
   Cemetery
   Golf Course
   Boat Harbor
   Marina
   Sports Dome

   Parks Administration
   Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the Parks Administration's proposed budget.
   Parks and Recreation Director Rich Klimes introduced his supervisory staff and gave an overview of activities throughout the year.

   Parks Maintenance
   Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the Parks Administration's proposed budget.
   Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Melissa Baker, gave an overview of what the Parks Maintenance division is responsible for. Ms. Baker stated staffing has been an issue, and they are currently working on training new staff.

Ms. Baker stated upcoming project they are working on include: the Lagoon Project, Cameras in Parks Project, Rose Garden Project and finishing up the South End Project.
Councilmembers asked for an update on the issues at Taylor Park.
Mr. Klimes stated the courts will be evaluated at the end of winter, the bathroom construction will start in the next week, and the splash pad water issues are being reviewed to find a solution to the water discoloration.

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Aquatic Center
Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the projected Aquatic Center budget
Mr. Klimes stated that the Aquatic Center is starting to see aging infrastructure and they are working on a master plan for updates.
Program Supervisor Blake Allington stated a new seasonal full time position as pool manager was created for the upcoming year in hopes of attracting a more experienced person to manage the pool than in the past.
Mr. Allington stated they are looking for lifeguards for the summer and can train and certify them as well.
There was discussion regarding the concessions at the aquatic center and the possibility of Happy Joes not returning this year but that had not yet been confirmed.
Councilmembers had questions regarding behavior issues at the aquatic center that were addressed by Mr. Klimes, stated they have police presence at the aquatic center on a regular basis to help control issues.

Recreation
Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the projected Recreation budget.
Mr. Klimes gave an overview of the activities in the recreation department over the past year and stated that 2400 children participated in the programs and 1600 adults participated.
Mr. Klimes states the program costs are set to just cover the cost of the program and the City works with United way to cover costs for kids that cannot afford the fees.
Mr. Klimes stated they are always open for new programs if anyone has suggestions please let them know.

Soccer
Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the projected soccer budget.
Mr. Klilmes started by thanking council for approving the new irrigation system that has been installed and states this will improve the quality of our fields.
Mr. Klimes states that the 2024 schedule is looking strong as spots are already filling up for both the Main Soccer Field and Soccer West.

Athletic Facilities Supervisor Jeff Limburg stated that there are 24 leagues using the soccer fields and approximately 1900 hours were used for games at main soccer complex and 1300 hours at soccer west during last fiscal year.
New Concession contract went well and will continue this year with same vendor.

Kent Stein
Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Kent Stein Budget.
Mr. Klimes states the big issue is all groups to work together on the schedules for Kent Stein.
Mr. Klimes stated the Concession Agreement with Flavor Time is a 5 year agreement and went well the first year.
There were 350,000-400,000 people visiting the park this year.
There was discussion with Council and Parks Director Klimes regarding the impact of not having Bruner field would be this year.
Mr. Klimes also stated they are working on a "Miracle Field" that would be handicapped accessible and a small parking lot.
Councilmember Conard had questions regarding if the girls high school softball team would still be using Kent Stein for practice that was addressed by Mr. Klimes. He stated they had some reservations but not sure for how long they will be using the facility prior to the new field at the high school being completed.
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Wellness
Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Wellness Budget.
Mr. Klimes stated the wellness plan for the year is based on the four highest medical claims from the previous year. He stated the employee assistance program was utilized by 9% of the city staff last fiscal year.
Mr. Klimes stated one of the biggest events for wellness is the yearly biometric screening. This screening is used to prevent and or catch medical issues at an early stage in order to save lives and money. Fifty-six employees attended the bioscreening in 2023.
Councilmembers had questions regarding having incentives to get staff to participate more, for example lowering their insurance premium for participation in certain events or completion of activities.
Councilmember Osborne stated he would like to see the walking program information put out to the public in the spring.
Ms. Lueck stated for informational purposes that the wellness program is funded from the Health Insurance fund and does not come out of the General Fund.

Cemetery

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

Mr. Klimes stated that Greenwood Cemetery comprises 80 acres of land and is mowed weekly by the Parks Maintenance Division.

Mr. Klims states there have been some challenges with the contractual services at the cemetery and they will be going to bid this year.

Mr. Klimes stated that parks staff are being cross trained to be able to take over the office at the cemetery if that becomes necessary.

Golf Course/Clubhouse

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

Mr. Klimes stated the golf course cleared one million dollars last year and plans to outdo that this year.

He stated they would like to hire a full time assistant golf pro if council approves this in the budget.

Golf Pro Brian Kuddes states he has been focusing on the culture and customer service at the golf course, he is working on getting more outings planned.

Councilmember Lampe stated he would like to see renovations to the clubhouse. He states that Muscatine has a state of the art golf course with a clubhouse that is outdated and in poor condition.

City Administrator Webb stated they would have to get creative with funding in order to make that happen.

Golf Cours Maintenance Supervisor Bret Parcher stated they are currently working on minor updates to the restrooms and getting new estimates on carpet replacement.

Staff asked for approval to move forward with the new fee structure and adding the assistant golf pro so they could get things in the works prior to the golf course opening. Council had no opposition.

Mr. Parcher stated upkeep on the golf course was tedious last year with the lack of rain we recieved.

Council had questions regarding the golf carts and if it would be more cost effective to buy them rather than rent them.

Brett stated buying the golf carts alone is expensive and then we would be required to store them in the winter and maintain them, whereas now we have a service agreement for their maintenance.

Councilmember Brockert had questions regarding the removal of the dead trees that was addressed by Mr. Parcher. He stated the ground was too soft at this time and it would cause too much damage to the golf course at this time.

Boat Harbor

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

Budget.
Parks Maintence Supervisor, Melissa Baker stated the goal at the Harbor is to keep the renters happy by providing electric, water and clean, well maintained lighted docks.
There were questions from Council as to what improvements could be made to attract more renters to the docks.
There was discussion about how the Muscatine River Pool does not attract visitors for lack of a food establishment in this area and due to many residents using local lakes for boating activities.
Councilmembers had suggestions regarding updates to the boat harbor to include concessions, restrooms and showers.

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

Sports Dome
Finance Director Nancy Lueck gave an overview of the proposed Sports Dome Project.
She stated the Dome is projected to be completed and open for use in the Fall of 2024.
Mr. Klilmes stated two sizes are being studied and both designs and costs would be brought to council when completed.
There was discussion on new staff that would be required for management, maintenance and running programs at the Dome.

Ms. Lueck stated there are funds left in the Soccer Event Fund that would remain there as a cushion to help with startup of the Dome if needed.

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

Respectfully submitted:
Cinda Hilger
Admini

4. **ADJOURNMENT**
Councilmember Lewis None moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 pm.