



City of Muscatine

MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

City Administrator Webb called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present were City Administrator Webb, Administrative Secretary Cinda Hilger, Mayor Brad Bark and Councilmembers Angie Lewis and Peggy Gordon. Finance Director Nancy Lueck and Attorney Brent Hinders also sat in meeting.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review Current Council Agenda

Councilmember Gordon opened discussion regarding Items J and K on the Feb 15 agenda. In response to an email received regarding the appointment of Councilmember Liaisons to the Boards and Commissions and suggested changes to the item it was suggested that pulling the items for further review would be appropriate. All agreed and Councilmember Gordon stated she would request pulling the items at the Council Meeting.

Mayor Bark had questions regarding the contract renewal on the agenda for GATSO and reasons to stick with them rather than looking at other companies.

B. Review Council 6-month Planning Calendar

City Administrator Webb shared she had received multiple calls from Terry Martin regarding the City to pay for the water pumping from the slough. Finance Director Lueck gave an overview of the past history of the slough pumping. Ms. Webb stated if the City paid what they were asking it would be approximately \$5000/year.

Councilmember Gordon suggested Mr. Martin come to a City Council in-depth meeting to present to the entire council regarding this issue. This will be added to the March In-Depth Meeting.

City Administrator Webb stated she believed residents would be coming to council to discuss the sidewalks being proposed on Devitt. Ms. Lueck stated this project was identified in the ARPA funding and should not cost anything to the

residents.

There was discussion on when the new employee would be hired to manage the Sports Dome. Councilmember Gordon stated this person should be in place and being able to make reservations for events at the Dome by August 1, 2024. Ms. Webb stated she would discuss this with Parks and Recreation Director Klimes. They also discussed having the new employee on board to help with decisions of what software/programs they would be using for management of the Dome.

Ms. Webb suggested that a change be made to councilmeeting schedules to change from having no in-depth meeting in August to no in-depth meeting in March. Ms. Webb states this would correspond with Spring Break for anyone wanting to travel and would also give Council a break after all of the budget sessions in February. All agreed to move forward with this.

Ms. Webb suggested removing language from City Code relating the the communication between Councilmembers and Staff. All agreed that staff and council need to use good judgment and this could be eliminated. Carol will bring before council at the March 21st meeting.

Mayor Bark suggested that if the current plans for building at the Hawkeye Lumber site fall through the possibility of of turning that area into a pull in boat harbor. Ms. Webb stated they would have to discuss with the core of engineers.

City Administrator Webb reviewed in brief other upcoming agenda items.

C. Review Status of City Council Priorities

D. Discussion Regarding Debt Service

Mayor Bark had questions regarding the types of uses that bond funds could be used for.

Finance Director Lueck discussed how bonding affected the city budget and how they can be used.

Councilmember Gordon suggested increasing the funding for the sports dome from 600,000 to 700,000 in order to cover any additional start up cost that may occur instead of having to do change orders. There was discussion regarding the two different plans being considered, one with one baseball/softball field and the other would have two fields. Finance Director Lueck stated that they could put \$200,000 to be bonded in the next bond issue as part of the sports dome project as well.

4.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.