



City of Muscatine

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bark called the City Council meeting for May 8, 2025, to order at 06:00 PM.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Nadine Brockert, Jeff Osborne, Peggy Gordon, Angie Lewis, Don Lampe. Councilmembers Absent: John Jindrich, Matt Conard.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Parking App Usage Review and Discussion of Proposed Leased Parking and Parking Ticket Rates

Nancy Lueck, Finance Director, gave a presentation on a proposed increase to leased parking spots in downtown Muscatine and an increase in parking ticket fines. Ms. Lueck also shared information regarding the new parking app usage.

Ms. Lueck stated the proposed leased parking space increase would be from the current \$300 to \$350 if paid annually and from \$350 to \$400 if paid quarterly. The downtown resident rate would increase from \$175 annually to \$200 annually. The estimated increase in funds to the City is \$7500 annually.

Ms. Lueck stated the proposed parking ticket increase would be from the current \$5 to \$10 if paid within 72 hours and from \$10 to \$15 if paid past the 72 hour mark. The estimated increase in City funds is \$35,000 annually.

There was discussion among Councilmembers on how this would affect the turns in parking in the downtown area with some suggesting the increase should be even more, while others suggested the increase should be phased in. Councilmember Osborne stated he would like to bring back discussion regarding the removal of metered parking and stated he would not support this increase as it is proposed.

Councilmember Osborne was the only objection to moving forward with the increases and having them brought back to City Council for approval at a future meeting.

B. Progress Update on Muscatine Art Center's Institutional Plan

Melanie Alexander, Art Center Director gave a presentation on the Art Center's Institutional Plan and the proposal to enter into a contract for design services of an expansion and upgrade to the Art Center. Ms. Alexander shared information regarding the need for storage space for collections, safety concerns for staff with the current facility and how this affects the accreditation for the Art Center. Ms. Alexander shared proposed uses of the future space to include more collaboration with school groups, the ability to have rental exhibits etc. City Council had questions regarding where funding would come from that were addressed by Ms. Alexander stating that there would be grants as well as private donations and stated that until the design process was complete, they would not move forward with acquiring funding sources. There were no objections from the City Council to move forward with a contract for the design process with BNIM.

C. Presentation on Traffic Calming and a Proposed Traffic Calming Program

City Engineer Kevin Coon gave a presentation on various traffic-calming programs that could potentially be used in the City of Muscatine. Mr. Coon also shared a proposed policy for the placement of traffic-calming measures that he feels would best benefit the City. There was discussion with the Council regarding cost, traffic studies, locations and timeframes that were addressed by Mr. Coon. There were no objections from City Council to move forward with preparing the policy to bring back to a future meeting.

D. Presentation on Muscatine Police Department's Co-Responder Program

Amy Gold, Officer Jake Elliot and Assistant Chief Steve Snider were present to share with the Council the Co-Responder Program currently being used by the City of Muscatine Police Department. This program allows for a Mental Health counselor to ride with a police officer to help engage and deescalate situations involving residents with mental health issues. This program has proven to reduce arrests and incarcerations and allows residents to get the help they need. There were positive comments from City Council regarding the program.

E. Presentation on Trap Neuter Release (TNR) of Cats in the City of Muscatine - Courtney Patel

Animal Control Officer Courtney Patel was present to share information with City Council regarding a proposed change to code allowing for Trap neuter release (TNR) of stray feral cats in the community. This would be at no cost to the City and could potentially save the City Money on the impounding of these animals. There were no objections from the City Council to move forward with the program.

5. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Lampe had questions regarding the lighting of the public art in the Mulberry roundabout.

Councilmember Osborne gave out a Kudos to the Muscatine Fire/Police Departments regarding a recent wellness check.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.