

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors  
Monday, February 10, 2025

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Chick, Kirchner, Mather, Sauer and Sorensen present. Chairperson Mather presiding.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commissioner, Lynn Pruitt, presented a review of the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission's 2024 Work Plan with Accomplishments. John Kiwala spoke on the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Survey and its history. Pruitt also presented a book titled Survey of Historic Transportation Development in Muscatine County, Iowa that is available for purchase through Pruitt or on Amazon for \$30. The book was researched and created by the members of the commission, showcasing different areas of preserved history within Muscatine County. Chris Brase spoke to thank the members of the Board for their support. Sorensen and Mather thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication to this initiative.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Kirchner, the Board approved to accept the Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission's 2024 Work Plan with Accomplishments and the 2025 Work Plan. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved a utility permit with Windstream Iowa Communications, LLC of Little Rock, Arkansas – place new cross connect cabinet and commercial powered remote in right-of-way on southeast side of intersection of Highway 70 and 231<sup>st</sup> Street, Section 7, T76N-04W. Ayes: All.

Planning and Zoning Administrator, Eric Furnas, reviewed Resolution #02-10-25-01 Approving and Adopting the 2025 Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan. Furnas stated a language revision on page 83 from “as of the development of this plan update the county has placed moratorium on renewable energy permitting to better understand and set policies that balance the multi-sector needs” to “moratorium was placed on commercial wind energy convergence systems” as it was not placed on commercial solar and Furnas stated he wanted to avoid any future confusion. Mather inquired on the expiration date of the moratorium. Furnas stated the expiration is currently set for March 2025, but is looking into having a public input session on wind energy, so the date could possibly be extended. Furnas also stated that a citizen had voiced concerns about data centers and the Zoning Commission did hold a public hearing specifically on data centers and made some recommendations. Furnas intends to schedule a public hearing to the Board in the future to present the changes to the current zoning ordinance to address data centers and crypto-mining facilities specifically. Chick stated he has had citizens inquire on potential solar farms being built and Furnas stated there are currently no project applications submitted, nor pending, for Muscatine County.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #02-10-25-01 Approval and Adoption of the 2025 Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION #02-10-25-01  
APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE 2025 MUSCATINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE  
PLAN

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has prepared a revised Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, two Comprehensive Plan Visioning and Land Use workshops were held to solicit public input; and

WHEREAS, the revised Plan was prepared in accordance with feedback received from the visioning workshops and meetings of the Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, following a public hearing by the Muscatine County Zoning Commission on January 3, 2025, the Commission recommends approval of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the proposed plan at their February 3, 2025 meeting, and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration of public input received, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors has determined that the 2025 Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan provides appropriate visions, goals and policies for future development within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors hereby approves and adopts the Muscatine County Comprehensive Plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

ATTEST:

/s/Shannon Steele  
Administrative/Elections Clerk

/s/Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

County Attorney Jim Barry requested dispositional costs totaling \$1,888.03 be assessed against Lee Thompsen and be placed on the tax book against real property at 619 Monroe Street, Muscatine Iowa. Barry stated the costs were a result of neglected animals being seized and then placed within the Muscatine County Humane Society. The costs have been accumulated through filing, service, attorney, maintenance and veterinarian fees, that were taxed by code. The code then allows the costs to be entered in the tax records and collected against real estate at time of sale or transfer of real property.

On a motion by Sorensen, second by Chick, the Board approved to order the dispositional costs totaling \$1,888.03 be assessed against Lee Thompsen and be placed on the tax book against real

property at 619 Monroe Street, Muscatine Iowa. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Kirchner, second by Chick, the Board approved the minutes of the February 3, 2025 regular meeting. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

Sauer, Sorensen, Mather and Chick received an email from Rhonda Staley regarding the Comprehensive Land Use plan

Mather stated the Board received a flyer from John Elshoff regarding free yoga classes for Veterans. Sorensen inquired if the flyer could be posted on the bulletin board at The Community Services building.

Committee & Meeting Reports:

Kirchner attended a Lower Cedar Water Management Association Winter Banquet/meeting in Durant on February 4, 2025.

Kirchner stated he attended the Muscatine County Energy District meeting on February 5, 2025.

Furnas requested a review of regrading a salary for an employee within his department. Mather asked if the salary grade had been revised since the addition of responsibilities to the employee. Furnas stated it had not. Sorensen stated the challenge is finding the appropriate grading based on the salary study used previously as this employee's updated responsibilities is not fully defined in an already established job category. Furnas stated he acknowledges the challenge as the job description is unique in comparison to other city, county and state positions similar. Mather thanked Furnas for bringing this matter back to attention.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 A.M.

ATTEST:

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Tibe Vander Linden  
County Auditor

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Nathan Mather, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors