

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Jenny Bowers-Shultz, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Abby Wilder were in attendance while Scott Murray was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

Mayor Rickord called the meeting to order and invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 2, 2023 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make the proof of publication regarding the meeting date change a matter of record. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord noted a member of the Mayor's Youth Council was in attendance and had Vanessa Hebble introduce herself.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, presented the Annual ADA Report for the City. Gilbert shared the City is required to improve 12 ADA ramps each year and had done 48 this year. A list of where each ADA ramp improvement with the help of Community Crossing Matching Grant funds, MCH, and Sidewalk funds was distributed. The report also shared the Red, Yellow, and Green numbers for the years 2016 through 2023. Fullenkamp made a motion to make the ADA Report for 2023 a matter of record. Seconded by Bower-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, appeared before the Council regarding the update of the mural on the west side of the Niblick Building. Noting the City Code regarding murals on buildings, Witte noted that murals need to be approved by the Building Department and City Council. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to approve the mural update. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman announced he had retained Crowe as an advisor and that the 2015 Sewage Refunding Bond had been paid off.

Mayor Rickord asked all to keep Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry in their thoughts and prayers as the Mayor's wife Cindy passed this week following a battle with cancer.

Dyer shared he had had a good meeting with the North Adams Superintendent as they talked about enrollment issues which has a lot to do with economic development. And, it was noted the more people living in Decatur, the more students.

Fullenkamp inquired about the progress of the housing study and Mayor Rickord noted a steering committee is set for the Riverside Development Proposal.

Mayor Rickord thanked those who attended the AIM Workshop for newly elected officials. Mayor Rickord also noted he is a member of AIM's Legislative Committee and there is a meeting scheduled for which he will survey the Council Members to see who wishes to attend.

Department Heads

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared that with the cold the last couple of weeks, there have been 6 water main leaks and the employees had some very cold jobs. Mayor Rickord thanked the employees for their great efforts.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber noted the department is down to five candidates for the new officer position and it was shared if a candidate is to be interviewed, a 48-hour period is needed for notification of an executive meeting.

Kerry Fuelling, Sewage Department Superintendent, shared the aeration equipment has arrived.

Council Input

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims before the City. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Bower-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:38 P.M.