

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2026

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:40 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rickord who then invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll call was taken to show Jenny Bowers-Shultz, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray and Abby Wilder were present. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the March 3, 2026 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the March 3, 2026 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was the Proclamation of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Cindy Thieme, a member of SAFE (Support All Families Every Day) appeared before the Council to share the events to be held throughout the month including the April 8, 2026 address at the Court House at noon with the addition of the blue pinwheels as support of children and family, and the free carnival to be held at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Monroe on April 18, 2026 from 1-3 p.m. Following Ms. Thieme's presentation, Mayor Rickord share a Proclamation declaring April Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City.

It was shared there had been a change in the state law regarding the internal controls training. The modified training changes were with the rules established in 2016, and they included a 30-minute video training session.

Ordinance 2026-4, an ordinance to amend City of Decatur code of ordinances regarding training on internal control standards and procedures was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2026-4 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2026-4 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2026-4 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2026-4 until the next meeting on April 7, 2026. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Introduction of the member of the Mayor's Youth Council, Katelyn Borne.

Mayor Rickord announced the date for the Resolution honoring the Girls' Basketball State Champions from Bellmont High School would be on April 7, 2026 rather than this evening as previously announced.

Next on the agenda was the introduction of Taylor Braun as the Main Street Executive Director. Ms. Braun introduced herself and shared what additional opportunities for grants and training the City would gain with a full-time Director.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, then shared the Façade grants noting the applications totaled less than the budgeted amount, so the recommendation from the Main Street was to fund as follows: Adams County Museum (\$201), Prestige Reality (\$10,000), Sorinna's Bakery (\$1,000), and ABC Rental Properties (\$8,615) for a total of \$19,816. Fullenkamp made a motion to fund the Façade Program as recommended. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2026-5, an ordinance to amend concrete disposal fees at the Elm Street Public Works Building, was brought forward. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-5 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2026-5 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2026-5 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2026-5 until the next meeting on April 7. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Following the action on Ordinance 2026-5, it was noted a Public Hearing would be held on April 7, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Department Heads Input:

Cara Gerber, Parks Superintendent, shared new trail markers on the Rivergreenway Trail had been put in place and workers were cleaning up from the recent storm.

Police Chief, Kevin Gerber, noted that Trevor Newman was sworn in on Monday as the City's newest patrolman.

Fire Chief, Jeff Sheets, noted that with the recent winds one resident had place the limbs and branches in front of a fire hydrant which could impede firefighters. He asked that no one place limbs and branches in front of a fire hydrant. Chief Sheets also noted that the new truck was in process. Fire Ops 101 will take place on September 26.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, noted the City's burning laws and shared that there was a ban on open burning except for "natural wood." No materials used in building should be burnt. Fires should be in a fire ring or fire pit.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, shared there is a new item to the city's website called "Ask Decatur Direct" which uses artificial intelligence to answer any questions a person has about Decatur. Gephart also noted the annual citywide beautification program run by Belmont High School students in the Mayor Youth Council is offering matching money up to \$500 for home improvements. Deadline is April 3rd. Applications are on our homepage.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Superintendent, reminded people to not flush the wipes labeled as flushable. They only cause clogs.

Following the reports from the Department Heads, the item regarding the Court House debate was taken up. It was stressed by several that the Court House needs to be kept in the City of Decatur.

Upon closing his comments, Mayor Rickord noted the importance of training for assisting anyone who is choking. Mayor Rickord shared he recently found himself choking and wished to thank John Kintz for his rapid reaction.

Council Input:

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the City as presented. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

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

Adjournment was at 7:20 p.m.