

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:49 pm 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, Scott Murray, and Abby Wilder were in attendance. 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 March 5 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Barb and Corey Affolder, from ABCinema, were in attendance to present their CF-1 forms for council approval. Anne Razo gave an overview of the CF-1/tax abatement process for new council members. Barb Affolder stated that the abatement was for the 2nd theater that was added, there is a 10-year Real Estate and 5-year Personal Property abatement. It was estimated that with the additional theater there would be 2 additional employees and an addition to payroll of \$5,000. They were actually able to add 4 employees (a total of 21 part-time employees) and an additional \$10,000 in payroll (due to additional staffing and long-term employees making more money). It was noted that the theater is a great asset to Decatur and thanks were given to the Affolders. With ABCinema being in substantial compliance, Murray made a motion to approve the CF-1 Personal Property, seconded by Dyer the motion was adopted. Murray then made a motion to approve the CF-1 Real Estate, seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2024-4, an ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Decatur, which amends the City's Sewer Use Ordinance, Chapter 54 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, as supplemented was brought forward. Attorney Razo shared that there are sections of the current ordinance that could affect the City's compliance with State and Federal regulations. Necessary daily maximum limitations for specific contaminants will be added that could impact the operation of the Wastewater plant. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-4 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-4 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz then made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-4 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz then made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-4 on its second reading, by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-4 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-4 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table

Ordinance 2024-4 until the next meeting and schedule a public hearing for that meeting. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was the Redevelopment Commission to discuss Industrial Park. Jeremy Friedt and John Summers from the RDC were present to ask Council to start the process of appraising and preparing 2 city lots on Fred Isch Drive to be commercially marketed and listed. Anne Razo brought up that it is much less cumbersome for the RDC to complete this process than the City. It was suggested that the titles be transferred from the City to RDC so that they can begin the process. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to have Anne Razo prepare a Resolution to transfer the parcels to the RDC. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda the Mayor's Youth Council presented their Beautification Program. Youth Council members present were: Andrea Curtis, Oliver Goebel, Everett Colclasure, Peyton Miller and Victoria Hamrick. The member reviewed the mission statement for the program, the eligibility requirements, guidelines, and the application. Community Coordinator, Jamie Gephart, fielded questions regarding the program and also stated that the documents will be available online if approved. Anne Razo thanked the Youth Council for all of their hard work on the program. Abby Wilder suggested that signs be made to put in the yards of the residences that are approved for the beautification program. Murray made a motion to move forward with the project, Bowers-Shultz seconded and motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord informed Council that it was made a matter of record during the Board of Public Works & Safety meeting, that the Memorandum of Agreement with the ACEDC regarding 138 N 2nd Street had been signed and approved by both parties.

Mayor Rickord also brought up April 8th, the day of the total eclipse. There are businesses that are closing all day or ½ day; the schools have gone to an e-learning day. The Mayor requested that the council think about how the City should handle the influx of visitors as well as what to do as far as the City's employees are concerned and will discuss further at the next meeting.

Department Heads

Jeremy Gilbert reminded Council that heavy trash week is April 1 – 5. Also, the mowing will begin within the next week to 10 days, however, public park restrooms will not be open yet.

Police Chief, Kevin Gerber, informed Council that on April 6, the Police Department will be conducting golf cart and UTV registrations from 9am to 3pm.

Fire Chief, Jeff Sheets announced that they are still accepting applications for paid on call firemen until March 29 at 6pm. Also, they will be conducting Fire Ops 101 on June 15 and partnering with the Portland Fire Department. The Fire Department will also be purchasing new flags for downtown. They will be heavier and a little more expensive and there is a line item in the budget for the flags.

Council Input

Bowers-Shultz suggested that we come up with a City flag. She shared it could be a good marketing tool for the City and it would represent our history and our vision for the future. She thinks this could possibly be an upcoming contest or project for the Mayor's Youth Council.

Murray informed Council that Drew Derengowski has started a foundation and has partnered with the schools, library, and Boys & Girls Club. The foundation focuses on covering life skills that students may not have exposure to in the traditional school setting.

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

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

Adjournment was at 7:45.