

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
April 2, 2024

City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on April 2, 2024 at 6:00 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street Decatur. Members present were Tyler Fullenkamp, Craig Coshow and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk – Treasurer, Kevin Hackman, and City Attorney, Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the March 19, 2024 meeting. Coshow made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 19, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Police Chief Kevin Gerber gave an update on the sergeant position that will be opening up when Officer Mark Cook retires. There are three officers interested, Daniel McGill, Teddy Bessesen and Trent Busse. Chief Gerber recommended that Trent Busse be promoted to sergeant. Trent has been with the PD since 2013, he has been an SRO at North Adams for seven calendar years and is also one of the Defensive Tactics Instructors. Craig Coshow made mention that Trent has been quite an influence at the schools and made a motion to approve the recommendation to promote Trent Busse and Tyler Fullenkamp seconded, the motion was approved.

Chief Gerber also requested approval to hire two new applicants for the PD. The first one is Joseph Collier, he is a 21 -year old Adams Central graduate and currently works at the Adams County Jail. He has an associate’s degree from PFW. Tyler Fullenkamp made a motion to hire Joseph Collier, seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. The second applicant is Luke Roby, he is also 21 years old, An Adams Central graduate and also employed at the Adams County Jail. Coshow made a motion to hire Luke Roby with the second by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Curt Witte, Building Superintendent and Brad Roe, Assistant Superintendent were next on the agenda to discuss code enforcement issues. The first property is 1027 (& 1025) Schirmeyer Street. The owners of the property have been deceased since 2022. The property is condemned and is in foreclosure, however, the bank has dismissed the case. Curt & Brad have attempted to contact the bank, the children of the deceased and anyone else that would have an interest in the property. The only communication has been with the daughter who has expressed interest in going into the home to clean it up. Attorney Anne Razo stated that if we approve a demolition order, that would give the city up to 2 years to work with the bank or heirs. Coshow made a motion to approve the demolition order and Fullenkamp seconded, motion was approved.

The next property to discuss was 616 Marshall St. This property is also in foreclosure. There was a potential buyer for the property however, the building inspector found 62 pages of code violations from remodeling not completed to code. Curt is not requesting action on the property at this time, he just wanted to inform the Board of the issues.

The last property to discuss is 728 Schirmeyer Street. Abatement orders have been sent to the company that owns it but they have all been returned. Elizabeth Easterday and Brandon Scott have signed a land contract with the owner, a 728SCH733 / Easy Home however they are in the process of filing bankruptcy. Curt & Brad have not been inside the home and cannot get in contact with anyone who owns the home. Mayor Rickord suggested getting more information regarding the owner as far as the address and to research Easy Home and give an update in two weeks. Mayor Rickord also thanked Curt & Brad for all of their hard work to make things safe in our community.

Next on the agenda, Kevin Hackman discussed hiring Crowe do a water utility rate study. Since COVID the costs for operation and maintenance have escalated significantly. Costs for two chemicals used in the water treatment plant in 2021 were \$210,000, in 2024 chemical costs increased to \$405,000. Also contributing to the decline in the water operating fund is the loss of utility fees from a major industrial company for the last three years now. Crowe gave an estimated quote of \$16,000 - \$18,000 with an additional \$2,000 - \$4,000 for Crowe to come to present their findings. The study should take 6 weeks to complete. Coshow made a motion to accept the quote and have the Clerk-Treasurer sign, Fullenkamp seconded and the motion was adopted.

Josh Zimmerman, Civil Infrastructure Manager, discussed the need for an emergency repair to the stormwater outfall on First St. The check valve has been lost and there is erosion each time it rains. More rains can cause downtown flooding as well as businesses and homes causing eminent risk to the public. Normally we would use a bid process but due to the emergency status, Josh is seeking approval to get quotes from five vendors: Fleming Excavating, Kokosing Industrial, Crosby Excavating, Dunnigan Brothers, and API. Mayor Rickord noted that proceeding in this way will save a month's time. Coshow made a motion to solicit quotes and Fullenkamp seconded and the motion was adopted. Josh noted that he will have information by the next meeting or email the Board if he has it earlier.

Fire Chief, Jeff Sheets, discussed the need for generator repairs at the fire station. There is a problem with the transfer switch, however, the switch and the control box of the generator are obsolete (purchased in 2008). Gen Solar is coming on Thursday to determine whether the switch can be repaired or if a new generator is required. WW Williams quoted a new switch at \$9,300. Mercer County quoted a new switch at \$6,600. WW Williams quoted \$15,800 for a total replacement. Gen Solar quoted \$16,311 for a replacement (which includes a 3-phase surge protector). Gen Solar was recommended by Fuhrman Electric and they currently work with them. Fullenkamp made a motion for a decision to be made on Thursday after Gen Solar does their inspection and for Mayor Rickord to sign, Coshow seconded, and the motion was adopted.

There being no other business, Fullenkamp made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:02 pm.