

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
APRIL 16, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:05 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 April 2 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord noted that one member of the Mayor's Youth Council was in attendance and she introduced herself – Emma Key.

Ordinance 2024-5, an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Decatur, Indiana, which enacts and adopts S-8 Supplement to the Code of Ordinances was brought forward. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-5 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-5 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-5 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz then made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-5 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-5 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-5 on its second reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to suspend the rules and to place Ordinance 2024-5 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-5 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-5 on its final reading, seconded by Wilder a roll call vote passed 5-0.

Mayor Rickord asked Police Chief Kevin Gerber to address the Council regarding a Flock Camera system. During the Board of Works meeting Chief Gerber requested permission to purchase 4 cameras that will be placed in locations coming in and out of Decatur and these cameras will read license plates and keep the data for 30 days. The purchase includes installation and a 2-year subscription for \$14,600 to be paid from ARP Funds the first year and Chief Gerber will budget the cost the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and moving forward. They system has been highly successful Wells County as it aided in the arrest a child abductor and a murder suspect. Dyer made a motion to approve, seconded by Murray the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Public Works Superintendent, came to council with a request from a city resident to have a handicap parking spot in front of 247 N 6<sup>th</sup> street. The resident of 246 N 6<sup>th</sup>, Vanessa Jenkins, stated that many times she comes home late from work and has to park some distance down the street. Bowers-Shultz expressed a concern regarding if this is done that we do not have an influx of requests for handicap spots (that are still public spots) when they have a driveway available. It was decided to table this request until next meeting after some investigation of the property at 246 N 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mayor Rickord was approached by the Crossroads Group/Recovery House to request yearly funds from the Opioid Settlement. Berne and Geneva have both earmarked their portion for the Recovery House. Fullenkamp suggested making a yearly donation and not earmark a certain amount each year. Council requested that the Group either send a letter or present to Council regarding the amount and what exactly the money would be used for. Mayor Rickord will communicate this to the Crossroads Group.

Clerk-Treasurer Hackman presented a Conflict of Interest Form for James Clark to be made matter of record. Clark is a fireman and also an electrician who will be doing work for the City. Dyer made a motion to make a matter of record the Conflict of Interest form for James Clark, seconded by Murray the motion was adopted.

#### Department Heads:

Jeremy Gilbert – Mulch is available at the compost site; loading hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays until 5 and Saturday from 8-10 – no need to call, residents can just show up during those times.

Yard waste pick up started last week and needs to be put out by 7am.

The street-sweeper will be out that last two weeks of each month (subject to change due to staffing and weather.)

All of the parks are open with the exception of Kekionga due to flooding – work on the adult softball field will resume as soon as the diamonds dry up. The dog park has been open since January. There are currently 52 people signed up. If anyone wants to sign up, they need proof of their vaccination record for their dog and a \$30 yearly fee to be turned in to Renee Litchfield at the Riverside Center.

Brooks will start on CCMG around mid-June.

Kevin Gerber – The Police Department had a very successful golf cart registration day registering 121 golf carts and since then they have had 37 more. The solar eclipse went very well and Gerber thanked all the departments that helped.

Jeff Sheets – The water is starting to go down but if you see water, Jeff reminded everyone to turn around. Last week they had a water rescue of 5 people – 3 of which were children.

Council:

Matt Dyer reported that he has received phone calls from three residents regarding the activity in the old GE Lot. The calls were with regard to the company working outside of the hours of operation and the noise level. Curt Witte added that they had went past 4pm a few times and he has addressed that with them. Mayor Rickord shared that the hours are 7am to 4pm and that he spent an hour and a half with them last week. He noted that it is loud and he is going to watch the process to see if it can be done any better.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims before the City. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, 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 7:37.