

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 2, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 6:20 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan 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 in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the June 18, 2024 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 18, 2024 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was to make a matter of record for an easement at Winchester Street and 13th Street. Murray made a motion to make the easement at Winchester/13th Streets a matter of record. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord noted the discussion of the Lake Shores area would be postponed as a meeting is to be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday to get clarification of the possible changes to the ditch, trees, and so forth.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber appeared before the Council regarding various ordinance enforcement issues. Chief Gerber noted some enforcement is according to State statutes while some are per City Ordinances. Chief Gerber shared the ticket book which has five (5) copies per ticket and the Parking ticket booklet which covers some ordinances. It was shared that the state has a method of dealing with speeding tickets in which the information is scanned into the system and that's all that is needed and a copy will be sent to the person being ticketed. That system is simply an easier way for the officers to do their job. Chief Gerber distributed a listing of all the City ordinances and fine schedules which could be placed on the system to result in an e-ticket rather than using the current ticket books. It was noted that one (1) ordinance could be used to allow for the e-tickets. City Attorney Anne Razo noted that a public hearing would need to be held prior to passage. Fullenkamp made a motion to have Attorney Razo draft the necessary ordinance to allow for the e-tickets and updated fine schedules. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord announced that Officer Mark Cook is to retire this week after over 31 years with the Department. A resolution honoring Officer Cook will be prepared for the first meeting in August. Mayor Rickord thanked Officer Cook for his years of service to the citizens of Decatur.

The next items on the agenda was the issue of the hospital maintenance workers parking along Manchester Street and blocking the ability of semi drivers in making deliveries to Innovative Concepts, not allowing space for the semi to enter the Innovative Concepts lot. Chris Caston, owner of Innovative Concepts appeared before the Council seeking help regarding the parking situation as some semi drivers have reported they will not make deliveries with the parking along Manchester Street. Mr. Caston noted he has talked to the hospital personal with no changes. Thus, with his frustration he had involved the police. Caston proposed making the needed area along the street a no-parking area. It was noted there is off-street parking behind the building the hospital is using as well as plenty of parking in front of the building. Murray stated that he would like to call Adams Memorial CEO Dr. Scott Smith to see if the issue could be solved with a conversation. By consensus, it was decided to allow Murray to contact Dr. Smith before changing city ordinances.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Kevin Gerber announced the Department will hold an Open House on August 3, 2024.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared the Department Open House events on Fridays had ended last Friday. It was shared that approximately 150 youth and adults attended the Friday sessions.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, shared that HIVE Director Kim Brandt last day will be July 22, and would like to start the hiring process. Dyer made a motion to allow Gephart to begin the hiring process. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Ms. Gephart also shared that trash pickup on Thursday, July 4, 2024 would be picked up on Friday, July 5, 2024.

Council Input:

Mayor Rickord wished everyone a safe and enjoyable 4th.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims against 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 Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 6:47 P.M.