

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 5, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo.

Mayor Rickord invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord commented regarding the 4th of July events, noting it was so great to see all the red, white, and blue. He thanked all who contributed to make the evening's event so successful. Councilman Coshow thanked the Summers brothers and the Belmont students for supplying the needed materials and the construction of the stage area used for the event.

A couple of event applications were presented. The first application was from St. Mary's Catholic Church for the St. Mary's Fall Fest. The event will be held on September 9 and 10, 2023 with a request to close 5th Street between Monroe and Madison Streets. Sirk made a motion to approve the street closing for the St. Mary's Fall Fest. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

A second event application was for a wedding reception to be held on Madison Street Plaza from 5-10:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2023. Jamie Gephart Community Coordinator noted all requirements were completed per the application. Coshow made a motion to approve the September 23, 2023 wedding reception application for Madison St. Plaza. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2023-10, an ordinance to amend Schedule VIII of Chapter 77 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 to reduce the speed limit on all streets within the Cross Creek Subdivision from 30 mph to 25 mph, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-10 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-10 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-10 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and Ordinance 2023-10 was adopted by a 5-0 vote.

Josh Zimmerman, Civil Infrastructure Manager, and Utilities Auditor, Kevin Hackman reported that State statutes changed and that Chapter 52 for Stormwater Regulations in the Code of Ordinances needs to be repealed and replaced. Also noted that specifications for contractors will be updated. They had worked with Christopher B. Burke Engineering to make the needed changes. It was noted that the replacement ordinance would pretty much be like every other city in Indiana, as all would be standardized. City Attorney Anne Razo noted that a Public Hearing would be needed prior to the 3rd reading and adoption of the replacement ordinance.

Ordinance 2023-11, an ordinance which repeals and replaces Chapter 52 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, as supplemented, in its entirety, regarding Stormwater Regulations was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-11 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-11 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-11 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-11 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Mayor Rickord read Ordinance 2023-11 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-11 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, the roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-11 until July 18, 2023 meeting for its third reading, noting a Public Hearing will be needed and it should be properly advertised. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord had received a letter from the Chamber for the Callithumpian Committee requesting funds towards the fireworks to be held in conjunction with Callithumpian Week. The event was funded at \$1,000 last year. Fullenkamp made a motion to fund the request at last year's rate of \$1,000. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed with Sirk and Coshow abstaining.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright asked for any comments from Council members regarding budget input for 2024. Sirk noted that the façade program was stalled for a year and he would like to see it put in the budget again. He also noted the residential façade program presented earlier by Mayor Rickord and Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager. Mayor Rickord mentioned guidelines would need to be set for residential façade improvements. It was shared that if it is the desire to include the residential façade concept, then we would need to come up with some guidelines. It was noted the grants could be \$250 to \$500 and Councilman Sirk suggested budgeting \$15,000 for 2024 and \$15,000 for 2025 for the façade program.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager reported that he would have numbers for Park improvements and the needed storage building on Elm Street for the next meeting.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator noted they are still raising funds for the Kekionga Park Projects, with one more month left to reach the \$50,000 match.
Council Input:

Sirk shared that perhaps the Council would want to consider something like the Fort Wayne Council is considering by setting term limits for various Boards. Coshow noted he also liked the concept of term limits.

Dyer inquired regarding any policy regarding graffiti on personal property. City Attorney Anne Razo noted there is no clear line between obscenity and freedom of speech/expression. However, the nuisance ordinance is used when complaints are filed by people who find some graffiti offensive.

Fullenkamp inquired if funding is needed in the budget to demolish the old Mark's Heating building on 1st Street. Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert will try to get estimates for the next meeting to budget for next year.

Sirk made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Dyer, 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 7:15 P.M.