

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 6, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 6:29 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor 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 July 16, 2024 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the July 16, 2024 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a request from the Decatur Chamber of Commerce for funds for the Education Day of Kekionga Days to be held the weekend of August 25, 2024. It was noted the event was funded at \$250 last year. Murray made a motion to fund Kekionga Days at \$250. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman shared that the insurance contract for 2025 had been signed by all parties.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator appeared before the Council with two (2) Event Forms. The first event was a request to close a portion of Schirmeyer Street on Saturday, August 31, 2024 for an event of approximately 100 people from 9 to 11 A.M. Dyer made a motion to accept the request. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The second event request was the closing of Fifth Street from Monroe Street to Jackson Street for an Antique Car Show sponsored by the Historical Society. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, 2024 and would be held from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Murray made a motion to accept the road closing request. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2024-6, a resolution to honor Mark Cook for serving as a member of the Decatur Police Force from January, 1993 to July 5, 2024 was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2024-6 in its entirety. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2024-6 in its entirety. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-6. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. Mayor Rickord noted Mark Cook had dedicated his life to the City and the residents of Decatur. Given an opportunity to speak, Mr. Cook shared it had been an honor and a privilege to serve and shared his appreciation for the

support of fellow officers. Mayor Rickord then presented the Key to the City to Mark Cook.

Dyer shared a story regarding the flood of 2003 when Cook took the leadership role in helping the people. Dyer noted this was one example of Cook going above and beyond.

Ordinance 2024-8, an ordinance to amend the Code Enforcement Division to allow for fast track abatement of weed and vegetation issues, was brought forward for third reading. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-8 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2024-8 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-8 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed with a 5-0 vote.

Ordinance 2024-9, an ordinance to change the speed limit from 30 to 25 miles per hour on Fairway Drive and Court Street in Cross Creek Subdivision, was brought forth for third reading. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-9 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-9 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-9 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Rickord noted he would like to have a short discussion regarding grants that come available, especially for park improvements. Mayor Rickord shared he felt it would be wise to hire someone to provide some renderings which would be available to use for application for grants. Too often grants become available and there is little time to prepare an application. Mayor Rickord noted it would be better to be prepared rather than scrambling to put something together when grants become available. By consensus, it was decided to begin checking with some who could assist in the process at a likely cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000. Mayor Rickord also stressed the public would be engaged in the process.

Earlier in the evening, the Board of Public Works and Safety had made a motion to allow for the purchase of equipment for four (4) aeration tanks using \$40,022 from the Federal ARPA Funds in addition to \$54,500 from the Wastewater Budget if accepted by the Council. Dyer made a motion to approve the use of \$40,022 from ARPA Funds for the equipment for four (4) aeration tanks. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman noted about ½ of the Department budgets are in and the Department Heads would be presenting their budgets at the August 20, 2024 meeting. Mayor Rickord noted he will be out of town on August 20, 2024 attending a State meeting in Madison, Indiana and asked if the August 20, 2024 meeting could be changed. By consensus, it was decided to hold the meeting on Thursday, August 22, 2024 with the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting beginning at 5:00 P.M. and the Council meeting to follow. It was noted the time change will be properly posted.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Kevin Gerber shared the Department had held a successful Open House and noted the Touch-A-Truck event was successful with several youngsters attending. Chief Gerber also noted that upcoming parking restrictions will be posted on social medial

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared that they are down to seven (7) application for the open position.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared work will be starting the end of the week for the handicap ramps. Paving will begin before too long.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Superintendent, shared that notification had gone out regarding the work necessary regarding the agreement the City has with IDEM regarding storm water and wastewater projects.

Public Input:

Max Miller, President of Decatur Main Street, was present to issue an invitation to the Decatur Main Street meeting to be held at The HIVE, 118 N. Second Street on August 8, 2024 at 8:30 A.M. Garrett Conway, the East Central Liaisons for OCRA's Indiana Main Street program, will be present to give a presentation.

Council Input:

Murray 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 Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:04 P.M.