

**CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2025**

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:35 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 Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Abby Wilder were present and Jenny Bowers-Shultz was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the August 5, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 5, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

It was noted a Public Hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. regarding the Municipal Wheel and Vehicle Excise Tax Ordinance, but actions would be taken on other items until 7 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was presented by Community Coordinator Jamie Gephart, with an Event Form to close the parking lot behind Two Brothers and a portion of Third Street between Monroe and Madison Streets on Friday, September 19, 2025. Murray made a motion to accept the Event Form for Two Brothers on September 19, 2025. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord announced that a large crane will be used along Madison Street on Monday, August 25, 2025 to complete the project to get the flag flying on top of the Court House.

Max Miller, President of Decatur Main Street, appeared with Community Coordinator Jamie Gephart as he requested the sum of \$25,000 from the Council so their budget could include sufficient funds to hire a full-time director. The Decatur Main Street is in the process of becoming accredited as an Indiana Main Street. It was shared that having a full-time director will allow for various projects to be completed speedier than with all volunteer workers. Fullenkamp made a motion to use \$25,000 from the Façade Fund in the 2026 budget to fund Decatur Main Street. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2025-7, an ordinance to set new rates for copies and videos from the Decatur Police Department, was brought forth. It was shared that since the police use body cams, it is now a much more time-consuming project to make videos. Thus, the cost for videos is increased from \$25 to \$150 which is comparable to area departments. Wilder made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-7 on its first reading by short title only.

Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2025-7 by short title only. Wilder made a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-7 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote passed 4-0 with Bowers-Shultz being absent. Wilder made a motion to table Ordinance 2025-7 until the next meeting on September 2, 2025. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed

Following the passage of Ordinance 2025-7, City Attorney Anne Razo announced a Public Hearing will be held on September regarding said ordinance.

Resolution 2025-11, a resolution to transfer from capital outlays appropriation to the other services and charges appropriation in the MVH fund was brought forth. Wilder made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-11 by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Resolution 2025-11 by short title only. Fullenkamp made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-11. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

As 7 p.m. approached, Fullenkamp made a motion to suspend the Council Meeting. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Dyer made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo explained the reason for the Public Hearing, noting it was for public input regarding Ordinance 2025-5 which dealt with the adoption of a Municipal Wheel and Vehicle Excise Tax.

When asked if there was anyone present to speak against Ordinance 2025-5, Rebecca Cochran, a City resident and Adams County employee, noted she wanted clarification and shared people need to recognize they will be paying a County and a City Wheel Tax.

A second person who wanted to remain anonymous, appeared to ask a couple questions for clarification, especially referencing the Amish and if they would be taxed to which Mayor Rickord noted that they would if they lived in the City.

There being no other residents to speak for or against Ordinance 2025-5, Murray made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to re-convene the Council Meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2025-5, an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Decatur imposing a Municipal Wheel Tax and Motor Vehicle License Excise Tax and Creating the City of Decatur Wheel Tax Fund and the City of Decatur Motor Vehicle License Excise Tax Fund, was brought forth. Murray made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-5 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2025-5 by short title only. Murray made a

motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-5 on its second and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 4-0 with Bowers-Shultz being absent.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the proposed budget for 2026. It was shared that Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and Mayor Rickord had met individually with each Department Head seeking their assistance in being as frugal as possible. The total proposal for the various sections of the General Fund totaled \$7,026,599, and the total for Other Funds which included such things as MVH-Street, Parks and Recreation, Fire and Police Pensions, and CCD totaled \$4,486,071. Thus, the total of funds with tax rates was \$11,512, 670. The total for all other funds is at \$2,824,815. The total without tax caps is \$14,337,484 with a 5.88% increase over 2025.

There were a few questions regarding the budget with Murray questioning Police Chief Kevin Gerber regarding there being an added officer. It was noted an added officer will only happen if a grant is received.

Mayor Rickord shared income from the State will be an issue the next few years as the State is trying to move away from property taxes and go to income taxes for the funding of various municipalities.

City Attorney Anne Razo thanked Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman, Mayor Rickord, and the Department Heads for giving of their time to put the budget together.

Mayor Rickord announced there will be a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at Riverside Center regarding the viewing and responding to three renditions for a proposed park to be located in the Decatur Chamber Lot area. Mayor Rickord shared there are funds/grants available but in order to be considered for any of the funds/grants a rendition is needed to be in place.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared the paving for the Community Crossings Matching Grant had been completed. Gilbert shared that over the last 5 years. \$4,761,642.92 had been granted to the City from Community Crossing Matching Grants. At the same time, the City funded \$1,190,410.74 for improvements.

Gilbert shared the 5-Points Project was continuing to take shape.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, shared applications for the Mayor's Youth Council are available at Bellmont High School.

Council Input:

Murrey made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:30 p.m.