

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 1, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Thursday, October 1, 2024, at 6:32 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 September 17, 2024 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first order of business was a request by representatives of the American Legion to place yellow ribbons throughout the City in honor of veterans. It was shared the ribbons would be placed on the first Saturday of November and taken down the last Saturday of November. Wilder made a motion to allow the American Legion to place the yellow ribbons honoring veterans throughout the City. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, appeared before the Council to introduce the new director of The HIVE, Laurinda Goode. Ms. Goode noted she works from her home so has set evening hours from 4-7 each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and from 9-11 on Saturday. Ms. Gephart noted Ms. Goode has lots of good ideas.

Next on the agenda were three (3) Ordinances ready for third readings and action.

Ordinance 2024-10, an ordinance for appropriations and tax rates for budget year 2025, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-10 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2024-10 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-10 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-11, an ordinance updating the vacation times for full-time employees, was brought forward. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-11 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-11 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-11 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-12, an ordinance updating the vacation times for the police and fire employees, was brought forward. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-12 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2024-12 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-12 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted by a roll call vote of 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was action recommended by the Board of Public Works and Safety earlier this evening to place additional lighting along the east side of the bridge at the north end in front of Riverside Center at a cost of \$12,800. It was noted this would be a good use of ARPA funds as this was not in the 2024 budget. Dyer made a motion to proceed with the addition of a 40-foot pole to assist in lighting up the bridge area using ARPA funds. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord shared the Highland Games are scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2024 and the Chamber had requested funding. It was noted that \$1,000 was provided last year for the Highland Games. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to provide \$1,000 toward the Highland Games. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, provided an update on the Skateboard Park which is hoped to be opened by the end of October. It was shared that the youth have played a vital part in the project.

Fullenkamp inquired if there was anything that could be done regarding the poles being replaced by I&M with their leaving cut-up poles near the replacement pole. Fullenkamp noted residents had inquired of him regarding the situation. Mayor Rickord noted he is on state AIMS Committee that could work on something for that level.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make a matter of record the appropriate advertisement and notification for the Public Hearing regarding the abatement issue for Metal N Motion. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to suspend the Council Meeting and open a Public Hearing regarding the abatement issue for Metal N Motion. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo explained the reason for the Public Hearing as an opportunity for public input regarding the 5-year abatement for personal property for Metal N Motion. Attorney Razo asked for any comments from the public, pro or con. There being no one seeking input, Attorney Razo recommended the closing of the Public Hearing.

Murray made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to reconvene the Council Meeting. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2024-9, a confirming resolution to establish the 5-year abatement for personal property for Metal N Motion, by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2024-9 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-9. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2024-13, an ordinance to establish new water rates, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-13 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2024-13 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-13 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-13 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-13 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-13 on its second reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2024-13 until October 15, 2024 for its third reading. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2024-14, an ordinance regarding the establishment of new sewer rates, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-14 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2024-14 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-14 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-14 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-14 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-14 on its second reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2024-14 for third reading on October 15, 2024. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Following the action on Ordinances 2024-13 and 2024-14, it was noted a Public Hearing would be held on October 15, 2024 for public input.

Ordinance 2024-15, the salary ordinance for City Employees, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-15 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2024-15 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-15 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, the roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-15 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-15 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-15 on its second reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a

motion to table Ordinance 2024-15 until October 15, 2024 for third reading. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2024-16, an ordinance setting the salary for elected officials, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-16 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2024-16 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-16 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-16 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-16 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-16 on its second reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2024-16 for third reading on October 15, 2024. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, appeared before the Council regarding a request he had received for a handicap parking space at 222 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. It was shared that with the church and the County building nearby, it is understood that a handicap space could be beneficial. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to proceed with a handicap parking space at 222 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was a discussion regarding a proposal with Engineering Resources for riverfront improvements. Mayor Rickord shared that public input will be involved with the improvements. Mayor Rickord noted the City needed to be prepared to apply for various grants as they become available. Such grants as the READI Grants must have projects ready to start when application is made. Mayor Rickord proposed using ARPA funds for the study. The proposed cost to have Engineering Resources provide certain proposed projects is \$38,000. Murray made a motion to secure the assistance of Engineering Resources at a cost not to exceed \$38,000 using ARPA funds. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The last item on the agenda was the motion adopted earlier this evening by the Board of Public Works and Safety to proceed with the refurbishing of the back portion of the building at 138 N. Second Street. The bid was \$46,277, with the ACEDC agreeing to cover up to \$25,000 of the improvements. Clerk-Treasurer Hackman noted ARPA funds could be used, but would like to check the 2024 budget for funds, and would report back at the October 15 meeting. Dyer made a motion to proceed with the renovation of the back portion of the 138 N. Second Street building. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Department Heads Input:

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets reminded everyone of their upcoming Open House to be held on October 10, 2024 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, reported that yard waste collection ends next Friday, October 11. Hydrant flushing will begin the week of October 7 and last 2 weeks. CCMG paving is complete and street markings should be finished within a week.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber reported that October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> will be the Police Dept annual night shoot at the shooting range. Gerber noted he has received 16 applications for the open patrol officer position.

Karey Fuelling, Stormwater Superintendent, reported that residents who received letters from the Wastewater Department regarding CSO repairs should have those complete. A notice will be sent for those in non-compliance.

#### Public Input:

Jean Porter-Brune rose to share concerns regarding changes in the original Riverside study/proposal which she compared to the current study regarding apartments along the river. It was noted by Council Members that things have changed over the years since the plan of early 2000's. It was shared that the area for the proposed apartments was outside the area Ms. Brune was addressing. Mayor Rickord noted the studies of every city regarding a great housing shortage. Ms. Brune was told her time limit for speaking was two minutes and she had not called to be placed on the agenda. Mayor Rickord shared his door is open to anyone who wants to come in and share ideas and/or concerns.

#### Council Input:

Fullenkamp 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 Murray, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:56 P.M.