

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
October 7, 2025

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety Members met on October 7, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. Members present were Craig Coshow and Mayor Dan Rickord while Tyler Fullenkamp was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the September 16, 2025 meeting. Coshow made a motion to adopt the minutes of September 16, 2025 as emailed. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was an update from Commonwealth Engineers Inc. representatives Ben Adams and Chris Harrison. Mr. Adams shared the project known as “Get the Lead Out Project,” had been finalized. Adams shared the targeted area now included an increase of 195 water lines for a total of 518. He also added that numerous engineering-related tasks would add \$932,000 to the project. However, these extra costs are part of the overall \$17 million estimate. It was shared that Decatur would likely be reimbursed from the Indiana State Revolving Loan Fund due to the large size of the project. Coshow made a motion to approve the expanded and amended scope of basic engineering services presented by Commonwealth Engineering. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to make a matter of record the Certificate of Appointment for Officer Conrad Dyer to the Decatur Police Department. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord announced the next meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety and the City Council would be on October 28, 2025 rather than October 21, 2025 due to some members being out of town on City Business to attend a conference.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets appeared before the Board seeking permission to use funds from the Betty Walters Fund to purchase 8 batteries and 2 battery chargers to use to operate the auto extractor tools. The cost for the batteries and chargers is \$8,998 when purchased locally. Chief Sheets noted that he could only receive one quote because of territory vendors. Coshow made a motion to allow using the Betty Walters Fund moneys to purchase the 8 batteries and 2 chargers. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion was adopted.

Chief Sheets next noted 15 applications had been received to fill two vacancies on the full-time force with six in consideration to fill two full-time position and three are under consideration to fill one vacancy on the paid-on-call firefighter staff. Sheets shared once the positions are filled, the Decatur Fire Department will be fully staffed with ten full-time firefighters and 25 volunteers.

Thirdly, Chief Sheets reminded everyone of the Department’s Open House to be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on October 8, 2025. Sheets noted the helicopter from Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne and the safety trailer from Indiana-Michigan Power will be available during the Open House.

City Attorney Anne Razo shared that the Board and Council will be asked to act at the October 28, 2025 meetings regarding an INDOT acquisition of 3 small parcels of land—one owned by the City and two owned by the Parks and Recreation Department. INDOT has offered to purchase the City-owned parcels at the rate of \$1,000 and the Parks and Recreation parcel at \$9,740 for a total of \$10,740. Attorney Razo noted the City had offered to lease the easement area but INDOT wants to purchase the land.

Coshow made a motion that the City would approve and authorize Mayor Rickord and the Parks and Recreation Department to sign the agreement upon approval from the Parks and Recreation Board and if language is included to allow the continues use of the parcels as part of the trail system. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion was adopted.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Coshow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 6:28 p.m.