

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Thursday, October 15, 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 October 1, 2024 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 1, 2024 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, with a request to close a portion of Second Street for a short time beginning at Monroe Street on October 20, 2024 to repaint the street mural which was painted about 1 ½ year ago and had faded. Dyer made a motion to allow for the closing. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Michelle Lengerich, Director of Adams County Council on Aging. Ms. Lengerich sought ARPA Funds to replace two windows with doors as entrances onto the courtyard. A discussion was held regarding the use of one versus two doors. Following the discussion, Bowers-Shultz made a motion to use \$13,015.80 of ARPA Funds to provide for two doors. Seconded by Wilder the motion was adopted.

Josh Zimmerman, Civil Infrastructure Manager, appeared before the Council seeking ARPA Funds in order to complete work at the southeast corner of the Wastewater Plant. Zimmerman shared that City Employees had done a lot of the work, but with winter coming there were parts of the project that would best be served by bidding out the various areas. Bids were as follow: Don Myers Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling \$4,950 for installing a 150,000 BTU tube heater, Extreme Builders \$5,120 and \$3601.16 to form frames between tresses, install a white metal ceiling, replace three pieces of roof metal, and labor; Momper Insulation \$3,414 for installation of insulation, and Korte, LLC \$1,018 for electrical material and labor. Zimmerman shared the total amount needed to do the work was \$18,103.16. Murray made a motion to use \$18,103.16 of ARPA Funds to finish the project. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The third item on the agenda seeking ARPA Funds was from Police Chief Kevin Gerber as he sought \$46,250 for Motion Solutions for the upfront cost for police body cameras. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to use \$46,250 of ARPA Funds for the upfront cost of police body cameras. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

As it neared 7:00 p.m. and it had been advertised Public Hearings would be held regarding the Water and Sewer Rate increases, Murray made a motion to make a matter of record the proper advertisement had been done regarding the Public Hearings. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Bowers-Shultz made a motion to suspend the Council Meeting and open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo shared the first Public Hearing was directed to the water rate increase and explained that representatives from Crowe were present to summarize their study. Attorney Razo shared that following the presentations, anyone wishing to speak would be asked to give their name and address and would be allowed two minutes to speak.

Jennifer Wilson of Crowe summarized the steps taken to verify the need for an increase in the water rates. There was no one seeking to speak regarding the water rate increase. Thus, Attorney Anne Razo noted the entrance into the second Public Hearing which addressed the sewer rate increase. Janessa Carter of Crowe gave a summary of the study process regarding the sewer rate increase.

Attorney Razo sought anyone wishing to speak regarding the sewer rates. It was noted that most of those present lived within the Regional Sewer District and they needed to contact the Regional Board regarding their rates.

There being no further need for the Public Hearings, Dyer made a motion to close the Public Hearings and re-open the Council Meeting. 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 third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, 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 third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0.

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 third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, 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 third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-15, the 2025 salary ordinance for City Employees, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-15 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, 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 third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, the roll call vote passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-16, an ordinance setting the 2025 salary for elected officials, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-16 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, 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 third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-17, an ordinance that authorizes the use of PayPal, Venmo, and other financial instruments for the collection of municipal funds, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-17 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-17 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-17 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, the roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-17 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2024-17 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-17 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2024-17 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-17 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-17 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 vote.

Next on the agenda was the naming of members to the Decatur Redevelopment Commission. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to rename Craig Russett as a member of the Decatur Redevelopment Commission. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

It was noted that Jason Bird did not wish to continue as a member of the Decatur Redevelopment Commission due to his work schedule. Dyer made a motion to name Aaron Rhymer as a replacement member on the Decatur Redevelopment Commission. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Department Heads Input:

Kevin Gerber, Police Chief, shared 8 applicants were remaining after the physical agility testing.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets noted their Open House held on October 10, 2024 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. was a success. He noted it was Fire Prevention Week.

Curt Witte, noted work is continuing on the Skate Park and it was shared that they have reached out to some youth to help with the work. Mayor Rickord noted people will be amazed at what the park will be when completed and there will be a ribbon cutting soon.

Public Input:

A parent appeared before the Council regarding the dangerous intersection into Belmont High School. Mayor Rickord noted the city is working with USI Consultants and the State regarding that intersection. He emphasized they are trying to get something done!

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Fullenkamp, 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 7:51P.M.