

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6:40 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Councilmen Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo. Council members, Craig Coshow and Scott Murray were absent.

Mayor Rickord invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the October 3, 2023 meeting. Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Susana Worth from the American Legion seeking permission to tie yellow ribbons on light poles in honor of veterans. The ribbons will be tied on the light poles along 2nd Street and Monroe Street and will be in place for two (2) weeks starting on November 10, 2023, and she will remove them after the two weeks. Via consensus, permission was granted for the ribbons.

Next on the agenda was Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator regarding the agreement reached with the Decatur Main Street Design Committee and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) regarding the posting of banners recognizing veterans. The banners will be placed on 12 light poles on 1st Street and 18 poles on Monroe Street for a total of 30 poles. The banners will hang from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day when they will be taken down and presented to the sponsor of each banner. Ms. Gephart shared that the various aspects of the agreement includes such items of where and when to pick up and return applications, the cost, and so forth. The application will be taken care of by DAR who will get them to Gephart, and then Gephart will get with the Street Department to hang the banners. The representative from DAR showed the actual size of the banner, which will cost \$100 that will be paid by the applicant. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the plan involving the banners to recognize our local veterans. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted. The Community Coordinator and the City Attorney will work together on preparing a Memorandum of Understanding to present at the next meeting for when the banners go up and who is liable.

Ordinance 2023-18, an ordinance for the Annexation of Meadows at Cross Creek, Section 4, was brought forth for third reading. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-18 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-18 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed 3-0 with Coshow and Murray being absent. Ordinance 2023-18 was adopted.

Ordinance 2023-19, an ordinance to establish a MERIT Center READI Grant fund, which authorizes the deposit and use of grant related funds the purpose of administration of funds toward MERIT Center improvements was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-19 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-19 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-19 on its second reading. Seconded by Fullenkamp, a roll call vote passed 3-0 with Coshow and Murray being absent. Sirk then made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-19 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-19 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-19

on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote resulted with a 3-0 vote as Coshow and Murray were absent. Sirk made a motion to table action on Ordinance 2023-19 until the meeting on November 8, 2023. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was passed.

Ordinance 2023-20, an ordinance to establish a 138 N. Second St. READI Grant fund, which authorizes the deposit and use of Grant related funds the purpose of administration of funds towards 138 N. Second St. building improvements was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-20 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-20 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-20 on its first reading. Seconded by Fullenkamp, a roll call vote showed 3-0 passage with Coshow and Murray being absent. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-20 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and City Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-20 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-20 on its second reading. Seconded by Fullenkamp, a roll call vote was 3-0 with Coshow and Murray being absent. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-20 for its third reading on November 8, 2023. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was passed.

Ordinance 2023-21, an ordinance to amend Chapter 94 of the City of Decatur Code of Ordinances to add Section 94.50 to establish a dedicated Paw & Play Dog Park in the City was brought forward. Prior to any action, Attorney Razo explained the process that had gone into the drafting of the ordinance. Input had been provided by the Decatur Parks Board, City Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert, and Community Coordinator Jamie Gephart. Attorney Razo also shared rules and regulations from nearby cities that have dog parks were studied and are included in the ordinance. Thus, Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-21 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-21 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-21 on its first reading. Seconded by Fullenkamp, a roll call vote was 3-0 with Coshow and Murray being absent. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-21 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-21 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-21 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was 3-0 with Coshow and Murray being absent. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-21 for third reading on November 8, 2023. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed.

Mayor Rickord shared that a ribbon cutting for the pickleball courts at Riverside Center had been held with a good attendance.

Mayor Rickord also shared that he and Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent had been meeting with young skate boarders and found them to have a great attitude and willingness to assist once they learned that the city will be making improvements to the skateboard park on 5th Street at North Ward Park. They had been meeting with the youth every two (2) weeks. Plans are to pour concrete and add equipment for skate boarding.

Mayor Rickord noted park improvement projects are near completion. It was noted that \$60,000 would likely be enough funds to complete the work. Dyer made a motion to use funds up to \$60,000 from the ARP Grant to complete the various projects. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted. It was noted that an additional appropriation will be required to use the ARP funds, and the Clerk-Treasurer will prepare the necessary paperwork for the next meeting.

Mayor Rickord announced that when fishing at Kekionga pond for the first year will be catch and release in order to give the fish time to get established and grow. Thus, notices will be posted as such.

Department Heads:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager informed the public that leaf pick up will begin soon as that project is started as people begin raking leaves. Also, work will begin next week on the improvements to the ball diamond at Kekionga Park, and all the paving and striping has been completed for the Community Crossings Matching Grant project.

Kevin Gerber, Chief of Police shared that the department is gearing up for Callithumpian Week.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Supt. reported that the sewer outfall is up and running and thanked the City departments for getting the project completed. The Mayor also thanked the Civil Infrastructure Manager, Josh Zimmerman and the other employees for their work.

Jamie Gephart Community Coordinator, noted this weekend is the final weekend for the Haunted Trail. An estimated 500 participated last weekend in spite of the nasty weather.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims before 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 7:23 P.M.