

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2025

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 7:20 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 Jenny Bowers-Shultz, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Abby Wilder, were present. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the October 7, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 7, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

First on the agenda were the American Legion Riders seeking permission to place yellow ribbons throughout the city beginning on the first Saturday in November and being removed the last weekend in November. The yellow ribbons are in honor of the Veterans as they wish to make the month of November Veteran's Month. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to approve the placement of the yellow ribbons throughout the city. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Dyer made a motion to make a matter of the record the appropriate publication of the Council meeting date change from October 21, 2025 to October 28, 2025. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2025-15, an ordinance establishing salaries for City Employees for 2026, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-15 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2025-15 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-15 on its second and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, the roll call vote passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2025-16, an ordinance to establish salaries for the elected officials for 2026 was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-16 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2025-16 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-16 on its second and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, appeared before the Council to share that Decatur Main Street had been awarded three figures to use during the 2025 Christmas season on Madison Street Plaza. The three figures are a 20-foot Christmas tree, a Santa letter drop box, and a large ornament with benches that includes 20,000 lights which will be lit each evening. The city will also be provided with a bench for the Santa hut. Ms. Gephart presented the award as an informational piece.

Chief of Police, Kevin Gerber, appeared before the Council seeking approval to use two rooms at the MERIT Center for training purposes. Currently, training equipment is being held in a garage and that equipment would be moved into one room and the second room would be used for simulation exercises. Window coverings are needed and some outlets need to be changed. Dyer made a motion to allow for the Police Department to use two rooms in the MERIT Center. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to make a matter of record the letter of resignation from Operations Manager/Superintendent Jeremy Gilbert. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted. Mayor Rickord thanked Jeremy for his service to the City over the years and wished him good luck in his new endeavor.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief, Kevin Gerber, noted another Calithumpian parade took place on Monday, and he shared some changes need to be made moving forward for the safety of the children. In reality, parents need to be parents and be more concerned about the safety of their children. Free candy is not worth injury or death.

Chief Gerber shared there had been 16 applications for the patrolman position. He shared two had already taken positions elsewhere. The testing will be taking place on Saturday.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets commented on the long lines for the various vendors for the parade event on Monday evening, noting it was a busy night for the city.

Chief Sheets also mentioned the interview process for the fire department's open positions will start on Monday, November 3rd. There are 6 candidates to interview.

Assistant Operations Manager/Superintendent, Matt Schultz, mentioned that leaf pick-up for the city started this week.

Mayor Rickord recognized the death of ex-mayor John Schultz and noted the funeral will be Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Mayor Rickord noted that Mayor Schultz was a great person and a mentor, and he also mentioned that more will be said about Schultz at the November 4, 2025 meeting.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the city as presented. 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 Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:41 p.m.