

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2025

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:20 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 28, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 28, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Resolution 2025-14, a resolution approving the appointment of the members of the board for the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA). Fullenkamp made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-14 by short title only to approve the appointment of the current members to the RDA and authorize Mayor Rickord to sign. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, Attorney Razo read Resolution 2025-14. Fullenkamp made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-14. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted. Current members serving on the RDA are Andrew Briggs, James Kahn, Bob Marshall, Gene Donaghy, and Jeff Turner.

Resolution 2025-15, a resolution to opt-in to the Housing Optimizers Preconstruction Grant Program, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-15 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2025-15 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz then made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-15. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Tim Ehlerding from Abonmarche Consultants regarding the Indiana Department of Health Grant Project. Ehlerding presented a power point presentation outlining the Planning Grant for Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements. It was shared the final date for application for the grant was November 14, 2025. Ehlerding noted the application focused as a planning grant and no costs were needed to apply. It was shared by numerous Council Members and Mayor Rickord the desire to add to the current trail system. However, after a lengthy discussion, noting the short time to prepare a proposal, and sharing a desire to look at the current trail structure and plans, no action was taken. Mayor Rickord shared there is need to get the current plans out and work on them.

Next on the agenda, Mayor Rickord noted members of the Mayor's Youth Council in attendance and had them introduce themselves.

The next item on the agenda was the need to adopt the 2026-2027 Capital Improvement Plan via an ordinance. It was shared that \$410,000 was available via the budget for the plan. As a part of the discussion, it was noted there is a great need for more gym space for indoor recreation such as Decatur Force, gymnastics, pickleball, and so forth. It was noted with the Judicial Committee looking for space, now is the time for the City and County to work together to find a way to provide more gym space.

Ordinance 2025-17, an ordinance regarding the 2026-2027 Capital Improvement Plan, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2025-17 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2025-17 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-17 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2025-17 until the November 18, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2025-18, an ordinance regarding time for regular firefighters working in relief, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2025-18 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2025-18 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-18 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2025-18 until the next meeting on November 18, 2025. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord shared recognition of former Mayor John Schultz will be done at the November 18, 2025 meeting when family members will be invited to attend.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief, Kevin Gerber, shared the agility testing for the applicants for an open position on the force was held last Saturday. Gerber shared that 9 people are being evaluated to join the police force.

Fire Chief, Jeff Sheets, shared interviews are being held regarding those who applied for the current vacancies. He noted 6 individuals are under consideration as firefighters with that number to be reduced to 4 in the near future.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, reported that new ordinal software has been installed to make using the city's geographic information easier. He also noted new maps have been produced with a large one mounted on a wall in the Council Chambers. The new maps show the first updated city boundaries since 2012.

Matt Schultz, Operations Superintendent, was recognized regarding his recent appointment to the position. Schultz thanked the City Fire and Police departments for their assistance in today's funeral of former Mayor John Schultz. He also thanked the City Council for their support.

Mayor Rickord thanked the Police and Fire Department members for their procession for former Mayor John Schultz's funeral.

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

Adjournment was at 7:24 p.m.