

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 8, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 7:17 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 Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo.

Since it had been advertised to have a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., Sirk made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo explained the purpose of the Public Hearing was for additional appropriation from the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Funds. It was shared the amount of \$60,000 would be used for the completion of the park improvement projects. There being no one in the audience to speak for or against the additional appropriation, Coshow made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to make the publication of the notice to taxpayers for the public hearing for the additional appropriation a matter of record. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2023-19, a resolution for an additional appropriation from the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant fund towards additional park improvements, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2023-19 by short title only. Seconded by Coshow, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2023-19 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-19. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed.

Tim Ehlerding and Ron Storey appeared before the Council as representatives from the Decatur Redevelopment Commission to give the Annual Report for 2023/24. Storey shared a summary of the activities of the Redevelopment Commission throughout the year, and Ehlerding presented the financial report. Storey invited anyone to attend their meetings, which are open to the public that are held every first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers. The Redevelopment Commission representatives were asked questions pertaining the housing project. Mayor Rickord announced the steering committee he appointed to work with the Housing Resource Hub will be Jeremy Friedt and Jason Bird representing the Redevelopment Commission, Scott Murray representing City Council, Alex Ainsworth representing the City Park Board, Jamie Gephart representing Decatur Main Street, Phil Summers representing the Board of Zoning Appeals, Craig Coshow representing the Decatur Board of Public Works and the Decatur Chamber of Commerce, and Anne Razo as City Attorney. Also asked about the future work along 13<sup>th</sup> Street. It was shared that the work is divided into phases with the next phase being sidewalks south to the Walmart area. Then the area of Washington Street and safety of getting across to the Hanna Nuttman Park area.

Mayor Rickord noted that the Council has two (2) appointments to the Decatur Redevelopment Commission and Sirk made a motion to re-appoint Jason Bird and Craig Russett to another one (1) year term. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator appeared before the Council with an event form for the Christmas Tree Lighting event, which will begin on Madison Street Plaza and then the tree lighting at the courthouse from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, November 18, 2023. A street closing is requested for 2nd Street between Madison and Court Streets. Sirk made a motion to approve the street closing for the Christmas Tree lighting event. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Community Coordinator Jamie Gephart then gave an update regarding the revised applications for the façade program. The program will expand all small businesses within the city limits, but will have stipulations. Applications will need to be completed and turned into her, and then the Decatur Main Street Design Committee will review the applications. There has been \$50,000 budgeted in 2024 to go towards the business façade projects, with a \$10,000 cap for each applicant. There will be two additional members from the Decatur Redevelopment Commission, Jason Bird and Jeremy Friedt who will help with reviewing the applications. There will be a required informational meeting for applicants to attend in early December. Gephart also mentioned that the Building Supt., will also be involved in reviewing the improvements. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the revised application process. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted. Jamie Gephart was thanked for her work on the revisions as was City Attorney Anne Razo, and the DMS-Design Committee.

Mayor Rickord announced that he had received an event form for the Belmont High School Wrestling to hold a wrestle off on Madison Street Plaza tomorrow evening beginning at 4:15 p.m. depending on the weather. Dyer made a motion to approve the use of Madison Street Plaza for the Belmont High School wrestling event on Thursday evening, November 9, 2023. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2023-19, an ordinance which establishes a MERIT Center READI Grant fund, was brought forth for third reading. The READI Grant funds awarded to the City totaled \$285,000 to make necessary improvements to the heating and cooling system along with resurfacing and paving of the parking lot at the MERIT Center. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-19 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-19 by short title only. Sirk made motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-19 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and Ordinance 2023-19 passed with a 5-0 vote.

Ordinance 2023-20, an ordinance which establishes a 138 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street READI Grant fund was brought forth for third reading. The READI Grant funds awarded to the City totaled \$290,000 to make necessary improvements and renovations for use of office and meeting space for the downtown building located at 138 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-20 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-20 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-20 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 vote.

Ordinance 2023-21, an ordinance amending Chapter 94 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 as supplemented to add Section 94.50 to establish a Paws & Play Dog Park in the City was brought forward for third and final reading. Included in the ordinance as Exhibit

A, are rules, risk and regulations, along with a member application, waiver and release of liability forms. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-21 on its third and final 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 adopted Ordinance 2023-21 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2023-22, an ordinance of the City of Decatur's Capital Improvement Plan from revenues collected from LIT-Economic Development Income Tax distributions for the years 2024 and 2025, was brought forward. The plan includes economic development projects, façade and city sidewalk programs, and park improvement projects. Sirk made motion to place Ordinance 2023-22 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-22 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-22 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-22 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-22 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-22 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-22 for third reading on November 21, 2023. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried.

Next on the agenda was Police Chief Kevin Gerber regarding revisions to the golf cart and UTV ordinances pertaining to the registration process. It was shared that there are 344 golf carts registered and 127 UTV's. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the placement of the registration sticker on the golf carts and the UTV's. Following the discussion, no action was taken and Chief Gerber and Attorney Razo will continue working on the ordinance to incorporate ideas presented during the discussion, and present an ordinance before the end of the year.

Mayor Rickord referenced an earlier Executive Session that was held on September 13, 2023 to discuss a real property transaction, no decisions were made at that time until a public meeting is held, so Mayor Rickord mentioned having a Memorandum of Understanding to transfer the building at 138 N. Second Street to the Adams County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC). The City plans to use the back portion of the building for storage and is asking that a new roof be put on the section as well as an overhead garage door and proper lighting, and a secure door between the main structure of the building and the back storage area. Fullenkamp then made a motion for the City Attorney to move forward with transferring ownership in a long-term lease agreement with ACEDC along with specific guidelines regarding the City's use of the back portion of the building. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager announced that he had made a trip to Wabash for a meeting regarding the Governor's Community Crossing Matching Funds Grants and learned that the City had been awarded grant funds of \$810,508.10 for the CCMG 2023-2. The total construction is estimated at \$1,013,135.12, with the City paying 25% and INDOT paying 75%. The grant will fund the resurfacing of nine (9) streets, approximately 30 blocks, and also new handicap ramps. Gilbert thanked the Council for supporting this program, and the Mayor thanked Gilbert for applying each year for this funding.

#### Department Heads

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager shared that leaf pick up was in full swing. There have been some problems with the equipment, but basically things are going quite well.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber commented that the traffic pattern established in Stratton Way addition for Trick or Treat night had gone very well, may do this again next year, since it was much safer.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared the department is about half way through the 4<sup>th</sup> graders experiencing the Survive Alive House. Mayor Rickord than noted the retirement of Tim Ulman and thanked him for his 25 years of service to the citizens of Decatur as a paid on-call firefighter.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor will be sending out letters to approximately 700-800 residents regarding a change in their billing dates which will change in January, 2024. The changes are necessary to have sufficient mailing each time for the bulk postage rate.

Mayor Rickord welcomed the recently elected members to the Council who were in the audience, Jenny Bowers-Shultz and Abby Wilder.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims before the City. Seconded by Murray, 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 8:41 P.M.