

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 6:30 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, and Abby Wilder were in attendance and Scott Murray was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting and Fullenkamp made a motion to adopt the minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

A Public Hearing had been advertised for additional appropriations so Dyer made a motion to suspend the Council meeting and open a Public Hearing. Seconded by Fullenkamp the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo asked if anyone was present to speak for or against the issue. There being none, Dyer made a motion to close the Public Hearing and reopen the Council meeting. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Dyer made a motion to make the publication of the Public Hearing a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2024-10, a resolution for additional appropriations from the General Fund to Common Council Repairs and Maintenance in the amount of \$150,000 was brought forward. The additional appropriation is for HVAC upgrades at the MERIT Center. Upgrades were approved in late 2023, after 2024 budgets were approved. Dyer made a motion to introduce Resolution 2024-10 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2024-10 by short title only. Dyer made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-10. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2024-11, a resolution amending the employee handbook regarding vacation schedule changes and per diem increased to \$20 per day or \$60 if there is an overnight was brought forward. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2024-11 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2024-11 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-11. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent to shared that the Decatur Plan Commission and the Decatur Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Had met earlier this evening regarding the rezoning and re-plating of 417 Line Street as requested by Daniel and Kelly Walker who were represented by Brett Miller. The 417 Line Street plot was rezoned from industrial to residential and platted into three sections. Dyer made a motion to approve the actions of the Plan Commission and the BZA earlier this evening. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Next was Max Miller, President of Main Street, as he invited Council Members to the façade meetings to be held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 9-10 a.m. and 5-6 p.m. Miller also invited the Council Members to attend the Wednesday, December 11, 2024 meeting at Riverside Center at 7 p.m. Renea Salyer, NE Indiana Community Liaison, for the Accredited Indiana Main Street will be present. The public as urged to participate in the meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman shared he had received the 1782 Notice from the Dept of Local Government and Finance (DLGF) and all budgets were approved except the police pension budget. The pension budget was reduced by \$18,385 due to an overestimation of 2025 revenues. Hackman recommended using ~\$18,000 from the ARPA Funds for the final two payments to the pension Fund in 2024 to relieve the shortfall. Hackman spoke with the State Board of Accounts and it would be an approved use of ARPA funds as revenue replacement.

The addition of Police Pension to ARPA spending would put commitments over the total grant amount. Council had approved the use of ARPA funds in prior meetings for: Dump Truck Equipment \$49,000 and WWTP Building Upgrades \$18,103.16. Hackman noted Rainy Day had remaining funds due to not paving the MERIT Center parking lot and \$49,000 could be used to equip the Dump Truck. Hackman then suggested Council could appropriate any remaining ARPA funds towards WWTP Building Upgrades, with Wastewater funds covering the remainder of the project.

Dyer made a motion to use \$49,000 Rainy Day Funds instead of ARPA Funds for the Dump Truck. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Bowers-Shultz made a motion to use \$18,611.26 from the ARPA Funds to pay the final two (2) Police Pension payments in 2024. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Dyer made a motion to use any remaining ARPA funds for the Wastewater Building Upgrades for a total of \$7,631.92. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord brought up the topic of DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) noting if the City is interested especially for the summer with the concert and other activities downtown, a decision needs to be made. If the City wishes to establish a DORA, action needs to be taken soon to file the needed applications with the State. City Attorney Anne Razo explained what a DORA was. It was noted the Council has the opportunity to set the rules and the makeup of the DORA area. Following discussion,

Dyer made a motion to direct City Attorney Anne Razo to move forward with necessary paper work. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord reported the meeting held last Wednesday with young adults had been successful with about 30 in attendance. Mayor Rickord thanked Jamie Gephart and Councilwoman Wilder for their assistance. He also thanked other City Employees in attendance at that gathering.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared that this Friday would be the last day for leaf pick-up. Gilbert also shared Community Crossings Matching Grant bids will be opened at the December 17, 2024 meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety.

Mayor Rickord shared he had been working with Gilbert and USI Consultants regarding an HSIP Grant for student crossings at the North Adams campus. Rickord shared the City had been awarded a \$414,000 grant to improve crossings on Monroe Street and Piqua Road. This would be an INDOT project and may not be completed until 2026 or 2027, but Gilbert noted that it is a relatively small project and could be moved up on the schedule

Council Input:

It was noted that this may be the last meeting for third readings for ordinances as City Attorney Anne Razo was directed to work on the needed paperwork for the change in policy

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Wilder, 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 7:19 P.M.