

**CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2025**

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:18 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, Scott Murray and Abby Wilder were present while Matt Dyer and Tyler Fullenkamp were absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the December 2, 2025 meeting and Murray made a motion to adopt the minutes of the December 2, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord noted a Public Hearing had been advertised to be held at 7 p.m. regarding an additional appropriation.

Prior to the Public Hearing various items of business were conducted.

Murray made a motion to make a matter of record the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements signed by various employees. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Murray next made a motion to make a matter of record the Certificates of Compliance with Municipal Nepotism Policy signed by the various elected officials. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to make a matter of record the appointments made by Mayor Rickord; Jeremy Friedt, Ron Storey and John Summers to Redevelopment Commission and Joshua Zimmerman to the Adams County Regional Sewer District. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to make a matter of record the appointments made by the Council; Craig Russett and Aaron Rhymer to Redevelopment Commission and Joshua Zimmerman to the Decatur Advisory Plan Commission. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Resident Dustin Myers appeared before the Council requesting some lighting and fencing in his neighborhood near the old jail. Mr. Myers noted he was speaking for himself and four other families. Regarding the lighting, Myers noted he was concerned regarding the safety of the children in the area. He shared safety and security were his two main concerns. Following Myers' presentation and some Council Member questions, Mayor Rickord shared the issues will be taken under consideration and noted nothing will happen until spring anyway.

Resolution 2025-18, a resolution allowing for various end of the year transfers was brought forth. A list of all transfers had been provided for the Council Members. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-18 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2025-18 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-18. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

A list of Encumbrances of Funds by Department to the 2026 Budget Year was provided by Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman. The total of the Encumbrances is \$82,652.00. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to accept the Encumbrances of Funds to the 2026 Budget Year. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, appeared before the Council to present an update of the alleyway piece provided by Midstates Recreation for the “Cat” Alleyway. It was shared that \$9,655.47 of unused funds from the façade program will be used to provide this piece of equipment for the children to play on.

Mayor Rickord shared that he and Clerk-Treasurer Hackman had been talking with Baker Tilly, a municipal financial advisor, regarding long-term financial planning for Decatur. Baker Tilly will be making a presentation regarding long-term planning to the Council at the January 6, 2026 meeting.

As 7 p.m. approached, Murray made a motion to suspend the Council meeting. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Murray then made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman presented the need for the Public Hearing being additional appropriation for the HSIP Matching Fund Grant which was ahead of schedule and additional appropriations of \$1,100 is needed. City Attorney Anne Razo asked for individuals wanting to speak for or against the additional appropriation. With no one appearing, Murray made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to reconvene the Council Meeting. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2025-19, a resolution regarding an additional appropriation for the HSIP Matching Grant Fund was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-19 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Resolution 2025-19 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-19. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Wilder made a motion to make a matter of record the appropriate publication advertisement for the Public Hearing for the additional appropriation. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2025-20, a resolution transferring \$1,100 in funds from the Decatur Redevelopment Commission for the HSIP Matching Grant Fund, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-20 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2025-20 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-20. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was an introduction of Vialytics software. Mayor Rickord shared he had learned of the program at an AIM Meeting, and he and Matt Schultz, Street/Sanitation Department Superintendent, had been looking into the program. Schultz shared it is amazing what the software can catch regarding street issues. The program provides equipment to measure such things as manholes by registering if they are too high or too low. There is a yearly fee and it was noted if the City of Decatur signs on before the end of the year, a fee of \$4,750 would be waived. It is hope that will still be available in January. The annual fee for 2026 is \$14,560. Mayor Rickord and Schultz will meet with the company representatives and come back in January with specifics. The system is currently being used in Bluffton with success.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief Kevin Gerber shared the Shop-with-a-Cop was held on Sunday with 40 children involved.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared their two applicants will be going to PERF next week.

Council Input:

Bowers-Shultz thanked Main Street for the display on Madison Street Plaza noting lots of letters had been sent to Santa in the mailbox provided.

Murray asked about the kiosk across the street from City Hall. It was noted that the kiosk has not been working for quite a while, and he was wondering if it was still needed.

Mayor Rickord shared members of the Mayor's Youth Council had been collecting for the Salvation Army Red Kettle event. He noted they are doing various things in the community. They meet at 6:45 a.m. and all 21 are present for the meetings. Mayor Rickord shared one member noted she wants to do more.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the city as presented. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Murray made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted. Adjournment was at 7:24 p.m.