

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
JANUARY 3, 2017

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Meyer. Roll call was taken to show Councilmen Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were City Attorney Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright. Absent were Cameron Collier and Tyler Fullenkamp.

The Mayor invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the December 20, 2016 meeting. There were no corrections. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mary Byer, representing the North Adams Arts Council, reported on the Arts Council and its various activities. She noted the facility was available for birthday parties, baby showers, and other such functions. She noted they were looking for instructors with various skills and for volunteers for the Board. The Council offers numerous classes taught by volunteers. She noted one special fund raiser held each year near Mothers Day--A Mad Hatters Tea Party. She shared they had some 30 members in 2016 and some 500 people have gone through the door.

Upon motion by Sirk, seconded by Coshow and adopted it was made a matter of record that County Council, who has the majority vote, has adopted an ordinance of the Adams County Income Tax Council imposing an annual excise surtax and wheel tax in Adams County to go into effect January 1, 2018.

Since the City no longer employs a Civil Engineer, Mayor Meyer announced the need for reorganization of the Decatur Plan Commission per State Statute. Thus, the Commission will change from 9 to 7 members, with Larry Isch and Nate Rumschlag no longer serving. Earlier in the day, the current Commission members had all resigned. Mayor Meyer re-appointed Barb Engle, Steve Hakes, Jack Macklin, Greg Kitson, and Dennis Scheumann. Dyer made the appointments a matter of record. Seconded by Sirk. Motion carried. Coshow made a motion to re-appoint Tyler Fullenkamp as the Council's appointment to the Commission. Seconded by Sirk, the motion passed. The plan is for the Board of Public Works and Safety members to re-appoint Bill Karbach at its meeting on January 17, 2017. City Attorney Tim Baker further explained the reason for the change in the makeup of the Commission.

Mayor Meyer appointed Sharon Gatchell to the Decatur Housing Authority for a two year term, January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018. A motion was made by Sirk and seconded by Coshow to make the Certificate of Appointment a matter of record.

Mayor Meyer appointed Sharon Braun as the City's Assistant Building and Zoning Superintendent. A motion was made by Dyer and seconded by Sirk to make the Certificate of Appointment a matter of record. Motion passed.

Mayor's Report:

In his comments Mayor Meyer noted that a number of semi-trucks were still entering Stratton addition in attempting to bypass the detour route needed for the 224 project. He also announced that the Board of Public Works and Safety members made the employment contracts for the new police officers Austin Gross and Reid Arnold a matter of record, and that Police Chief Greg Cook is currently looking at applications for hiring one additional police officer in 2017.

Department Heads:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, emphasized the need to keep the speed limit of 25 mph if going through Stratton during the detour.

Police Chief Greg Cook asked the public to slow down, especially since machinery has been moved in for the construction of the 224 project. He also noted the boiler at the old Police Department needs some work, which he has money in his budget to repair.

Utilities Director Dan Rickord announced that the storm water rate will increase by \$1 per household starting this January.

Fire Chief Les Marckel noted the open house at the new Adams County Jail, and the concern for parking. He noted that the new firefighter's Heith Fullenkamp, and Taylor Gage were working out very well.

Council Input/Concerns:

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright noted the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) has approved the City's 2017 budget. The DLGF provided new estimates for the impact of the property tax caps, which were less than anticipated.

Councilman Coshow announced the Decatur Chamber of Commerce would host the State of the City address on Monday, January 9, 2017. It was also noted there would be a meeting on Monday, January 9, 2017 at the Decatur Chamber building to produce a calendar to coordinate events to be held by any group during 2017.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims. Seconded by Sirk, the motion passed.

There being no other business to come before the Council, Coshow made a motion to adjourn. Dyer seconded the motion, which passed.

Adjournment was at 8:06 p.m.