

City of Decatur  
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes  
January 5, 2021

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. Members present were Craig Coshow and Mayor Rickord. Tyler Fullenkamp was in attendance via phone. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Timothy Baker.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes of the December 15, 2020 meeting. Coshow made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Fullenkamp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The first item on the agenda was a request from the Chief of Police Lennie Corral regarding approval to hire a 19<sup>th</sup> Police Officer. Chief Corral recommended hiring Gabe Schwaller. Mr. Schwaller joined the Decatur Police Department as a Reserve Officer on January 29, 2020. Currently he serves as the Confinement Officer for the Adams County Sheriff Department. Mr. Schwaller has completed ILEA 40-hour training and will be participating in the PERF testing qualifications. Coshow made a motion to allow Chief Corral to proceed with the hiring process with Gabe Schwaller as the 19<sup>th</sup> Officer. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. Chief Corral also noted that they are still going through the background check regarding the hiring of the 20<sup>th</sup> officer.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent appeared before the Board regarding two (2) nuisance violations. The first location was 804 Schirmeyer Street, property owned by Gary Meyer, William & Kylie Harvey. Witte noted the first complaint had been received regarding weeds, grass, and debris on November 13, 2020. After notification, the department found some work had been done and on November 30, 2020 sent a letter thanking the resident for the work done but noted more work needed to be completed. There being no progress as of December 22, 2020 a letter was sent on December 23, 2020 requesting the resident to appear before the Board of Public Works and Safety on January 5, 2021. Resident Kylie Harvey was in attendance and she informed the Board that her husband is disabled and she is working too many hours to get everything cleaned up. Mrs. Harvey noted that she is planning to find someone to tear down one of the sheds in the back. Witte is willing to work with Mrs. Harvey and asked her to call his office weekly of her progress of getting the property cleaned up. Mrs. Harvey agreed to do so.

The second location Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent brought up was at 1004 Schirmeyer Street, owned by Beverly Reed. There was no one in attendance regarding the residence. Witte noted a complaint regarding weeds and debris on November 13, 2020. He noted some mowing had been done and on November 30, 2020 a letter was sent thanking the resident for some progress and gave five (5) days to complete the needed work. However, with no progress a letter was sent on December 23, 2020 asking the resident to appear before the Board of Public Works and Safety on January 5, 2021. Since no one appeared, City Attorney Tim Baker was directed to send a letter to the owner if no response within 14 days, the City will go in and clean the property at the owner's expense.

Building and Zoning Superintendent Curt Witte informed the Board that he and Councilmen Coshow and Sirk had attended a PowerPoint presentation provided by Prochamps. It was noted that Prochamps works with municipalities throughout Indiana as they keep track of all vacant homes and foreclosed properties. They are then able to notify municipalities of locations that are about to go into foreclosure. Coshow noted he felt it was a good program that would likely save the Department a lot of needed leg work. Witte noted he has the PowerPoint presentation and a sample ordinance. Witte's

department has stepped up on Code Enforcement and they now need to get more people involved such as the mortgage holders. Witte also noted he has looked at Doxpop.com recently and feels it would be wise to start using that system. After the Prochamps presentation he noted he would like to look into it further and learn more. The cost of Prochamps could be \$324.00 to \$576.00 a year depending on the number of searches are needed. Coshow made a motion for Witte to send the PowerPoint information for Prochamps, and the sample ordinance to all the Council members including the positive and the negatives of the program and table any action until the January 19, 2021 meeting, and if needed, to allow Witte to setup an account with Doxpop for one month for now. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment for Officer Lucas Rumschlag's promotion to Police Sergeant effective January 1, 2021 a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert appeared before the Board to open quotes for sidewalk work along East Monroe Street from the east driveway into the previous Access Building to Ogg Street. Two quotes were received: Liter Concrete at \$135,500.00 and TG Concrete at \$129,920.00, Hitchcock Concrete was also invited to quote, but did not submit a quote. Coshow made a motion for Gilbert to take the quotes under advisement until later in the meeting. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert next presented to the Board a quote from ESL/Spectrum for the decorative light poles for Phase 3 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Streetscapes Project from Jefferson Street south to the alley which would need six (6) light poles. Gilbert noted the cost had increased \$800 per pole since summer and another increase is expected in February. Six (6) poles could be purchased now for \$29,640.00. Coshow made a motion to proceed with the purchase of six (6) light poles at a cost of \$29,640.00, noting the reason for not getting other quotes was due to the projected cost increase and the desire to keep the same style of light poles. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. This project has been budgeted to be paid from the CCD fund.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert and Civil Infrastructure Manager, Don Bergdall appeared before the Board regarding the purchase of property to aid in drainage for the Homestead Addition. Gilbert noted Brett Miller of Miller Surveying had done some survey work and he had talked with County Surveyor Paul Norr and the County Drainage Board who has some concerns. Gilbert inquired if the City was still planning to purchase the land from the Heimann's, and City Attorney, Tim Baker informed them that the closing on the property is to be done in the near future. Coshow made a motion to allow Jeremy Gilbert to proceed working with Brett Miller for his professional services to make sure the City has the accurate calculations to do a detention pond on the property to be purchased. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert then shared that Gov. Holcomb has sent out information today regarding the 2021-1 Community Crossing Matching Grants, noting application for this round is due January 24, 2021. Gilbert sought input regarding interest in make application and noted current matching is 75-25 now, and with the new census to take place, the City will likely be over the 10,000 mark and matching then would be 50-50. Coshow noted he did not want to pave streets and then have to tear them up in order to finish the sewer agreed order. Gilbert noted there are plenty of streets other than those involved in the sewer agreed order that need to be repaved. When asked if he would recommend making application for the grant, Gilbert noted he felt it was a great program and that not much money is in the 2021 budget for paving. Fullenkamp made a motion for Gilbert to make application for the maximum amount of \$1 million for the Community Crossing Matching Grant by the January 24, 2021 deadline, and to use Butler, Fairman & Seufert's to assist with the grant application. Seconded by

Coshow, the motion was adopted. The City's match has been budgeted in the MVH-Street and Rainy Day budgets.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager had reviewed the quotes for the sidewalk project on East Monroe Street that had been taken under advisement earlier in the meeting, and recommended accepting the quote of \$129,920.00 from TG Concrete. Coshow made a motion to follow Gilbert's recommendation to accept the quote of \$129,920.00 from TG Concrete. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. This project has been budgeted to be paid from the CEDIT fund.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Coshow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:10 P.M.