

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2022

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Councilmen Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo. Councilman Craig Coshow was absent.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 18, 2022 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to suspend the City Council meeting and open a Public Hearing regarding the tax abatement proposal for Lance Camper Mfg. Corp, a subsidiary of REV Recreation Group, Inc. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Slinker, Director of Operations for Lance Camper was present, and also Carol Henderson, Senior Manager of Deloitte Tax, LLP attended virtually to answer any questions. City Attorney Anne Razo reminded Council Members that a Declaratory Resolution for the designation of an economic revitalization area upon the application of Lance Camper Mfg. Corp. had been adopted at the January 18, 2022 meeting. Mr. Slinker shared that Lance Camper is excited to bring the facility to the Midwest. Other plants are located in California. Slinker shared that Lance Camper started in California in 1965 and he and his wife plan to move to Decatur in June. Start of production is anticipated to be July 1, 2022 and full capacity in April 2022 for truck campers and pull-behind campers, with 120 employees. Beginning plans are to build eight (8) campers a day, five (5) days a week at the plant located at 1236 Patterson Street. It was noted major renovations will be made at the current building with the rehab process to begin by the end of February and be completed by June of this year. It was noted that a lease agreement between Lance Camper Mfg. and REV Recreation Group had not been completed yet. The City Attorney asked for any comments from the public. There were no comments received in favor or against the abatement. Thus, Sirk made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to reconvene the Council meeting. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

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

The City Attorney, Anne Razo received an email from Colton Bickel, Director of Adams County Economic Development that states that Stephen Boettinger, SVP, General Counsel and Secretary of REV Group, Inc. confirming that Nicole Gustafson, VP of Tax, Treasurer of REV Group has the authority to sign the property tax abatement application for both REV Group, Inc. and Lance Camper Mfg. Corp. Sirk made a motion to make the email a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

A Confirming Resolution granting Lance Camper Mfg. Corp., a subsidiary of REV Recreation Group, Inc., a ten (10) year abatement for real property and equipment was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to introduce Confirming Resolution 2022-4, a resolution granting a ten (10) year abatement for real property valued at \$1.6 million and equipment valued at \$800,000, by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2022-4 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-4. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2022-3, an ordinance which amends Schedule V of Chapter 77 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 by establishing or amending traffic schedules for Palmers Pass, Fuzzys Circle, Hogans Alley, and Tigers Trail, was brought forward for third reading. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-3 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-3 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-3 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage with a 4-0 vote with Coshow being absent.

Police Chief Lennie Corral appeared before the Council regarding an update for the UTV Ordinance. Chief Corral and Mayor Rickord both have received calls from residents regarding the status of the UTV Ordinance. Chief Corral had shared the proposed ordinance with a DNR Officer and he recommended going by Indiana Code for enforcement. The DNR Officer is willing to come and train Decatur's Officers regarding the State Law, especially since there are areas the City Officers do not normally encounter on a daily basis. Chief Corral will email the proposal to the City Attorney and Council members to review for action at the next meeting on February 15, 2022. Chief Corral hopes to have things in order for spring or early summer.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent appeared before Council noting a decision had to be made regarding the 138 North Second Street building to either keep the building or demolish the building for insurance purposes. Witte has two (2) engineers working on proposals and he would share the proposal with Council members as they are proposing two (2) different ways to do the work. Witte recommended repairing the building as he really did not want to tear it down as both engineers noted it could be saved. Murray made a motion to move forward with getting the proposals to make repairs to the building at 138 North Second Street. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2022-4, an ordinance to set up a non-reverting fund for the Decatur Police Department as a result of funds received from the Betty J. Walters Estate, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-4 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-4 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-4 on its first reading. A roll call vote showed passage with a 4-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-4 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-4 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-4 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage by a 4-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2022-4 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-4 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-4 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and Ordinance 2022-4 was adopted by a 4-0 vote.

Ordinance 2022-5, an ordinance to set up a non-reverting fund for the Decatur Fire Department as a result of funds received from the Betty J. Walters Estate, was brought forward.

Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-5 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-5 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-5 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage by a 4-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-5 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-5 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-5 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passed with a 4-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2022-5 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-5 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-5 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and Ordinance 2022-5 was adopted by a 4-0 vote.

Resolution 2022-5, a resolution to oppose legislation (HB1002 a bill proposed in the Indiana General Assembly) regarding business property taxes which would take revenue away from local governmental entities such as police, fire, libraries, schools, parks, Cities, Counties, and so forth, was brought forth. The Resolution would show support and unity along with resolutions being adopted by other Cities and Counties throughout the State. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2022-5 by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2022-5 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-5. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted. Mayor Rickord expressed thanks to AIM organization for keeping cities informed regarding the various bills before the Indiana General Assembly and their effect on local governmental entities.

Mayor Rickord read a letter of resignation/retirement from Fire Chief Les Marckel effective of April 28, 2022. Dyer made a motion to make Chief Marckel's letter of resignation/retirement a matter of record. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted. Mayor Rickord thanked Chief Marckel for his years of service and noted recognition would be made at a time closer to the April 28, 2022 date.

Mayor Rickord announced that as a result of receiving Chief Marckel's letter for retirement, he had met with the Fire Department last Friday and he has named Fire Captain, Jeff Sheets to fill Marckel's position as Fire Chief effective April 28, 2022. With Sheets' appointment, there will be a firefighter position open. To find a replacement, Chief Marckel will prepare a proposal at the February 15, 2022 Board of Public Works and Safety meeting. Mayor Rickord praised Captain Sheets for his work with the Survive Alive project as he has led for many years.

Fire Chief Les Marckel shared that Ordinance 2022-1, an ordinance which had been passed by the Council and has been sent to the State, has been returned noting that State approval was necessary and not just Council approval. Thus, an amended ordinance will be brought forth at the February 15, 2022 meeting.

Mayor Rickord mentioned that with the weather predictions of large amounts of snow, he asked not to park along the streets if possible. And, if the weather gets as bad as predicted, Mayor Rickord urged residents to stay in. He also noted there may be changes in garbage pick-up.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief Lennie Corral congratulated Fire Chief Marckel on his retirement and thanked the Walter's estate for its financial contribution to the Decatur Police Department, he has not been able to find a relative of Ms. Walters to thank personally. Chief Corral shared that Officer Blaze

Brooks had picked up K-9 Officer Arko who will be trained on March 28, 2022, which the Department has received a grant to pay for the training.

Captain Jeff Sheets asked residents of Decatur and the area to keep hydrants clear of snow at least three (3) feet surrounding each hydrant.

Fire Chief Les Marckel thanked Ms. Walters estate and shared he is trying to look for equipment purchases that would not only serve the Decatur Fire Department, but also the community.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor gave an update regarding the possible Solar Project at the east Water Treatment Plant noting the necessary publications had been posted in the paper, and will know by the next meeting if there are any bids.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager asked for patience from residents if the predicted snow arrives, noting it would not be an average clean-up as for a 2-3 inch snow. City workers will keep the main routes open, especially for emergency vehicles.

Bill Carpenter, Assistant Water Department Superintendent congratulated Chief Marckel on his retirement and Captain Sheets on being named Fire Chief.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent congratulated Chief Marckel on his retirement and introduced Brad Roe as the new Assistant Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator shared she will be updating the social media regarding the snow storm prediction.

Mayor Rickord reported that a meeting had been held at the jail today with police and fire department leaders, school leaders, City leaders, County Council Members, and the Sheriff regarding plans to work together if there are needs as a result of the anticipated winter storm. Mayor Rickord will keep all Department Heads updated via text messages.

Clerk Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo each congratulated Fire Chief, Marckel on his plans to retire and Jeff Sheets on being named at Fire Chief.

Council Input:

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Dyer, 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 8:15 P.M.