

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 2, 2021

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7:40 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 Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Timothy Baker.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, and Don Bergdall, Civil Infrastructure Manager, appeared before the Council to share a Zoom meeting with Tim Cox of ProChamps. Mr. Cox gave an overview of the program then answered questions. It was noted that ProChamps give the staff a tool to work with for blighted area as a result of vacancies and foreclosures. ProChamps connects with the persons needing to sign up for the program. The City will receive contact information for any vacancies or foreclosures. ProChamps has four areas--Identification, Regulate, Enforcement, and Monitoring. Regarding how properties are identified, ProChamps actually buys from such sources as court records which supplies notices of defaults. Regarding the fee, ProChamps encourages a fee of \$100 but that is up to the City. Fees are paid every six (6) months. Questions were asked regarding properties that are vacant but are being refurbished or homes left by an estate. It was noted that as long as utilities are on and are being paid, the home is not considered vacant. The purpose of the program is to encourage owners to get the property occupied as soon as possible to avoid the property being run down. It was noted that the ordinance could be adapted to the City's interests. Questioned about an apartment building with perhaps eight (8) units and having only one (1) unit vacant, in this case, the vacancy of one (1) unit would not provide for the owner to register the vacancy. However, if all were vacant and no action is taken to fill the units, then the owner would need to register. Basically, the program covers areas that are truly abandoned and nothing is being done to improve the building. Once a property goes into foreclosure, the bank/lending institution is responsible for registering the property. Thus, banks/lending institutions are responsible for a lot of the reporting. Following a lengthy question and answer period, Fullenkamp made a motion to move forward with Council members sharing ideas and directing Witte to draft a version of a possible ordinance. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before the Council sharing that he and Police Chief Lennie Corral had been contacted regarding parking along West Monroe Street. Both were in agreement there should be no parking along the street on the north and south side between Westlawn Drive and Industrial Road. Dyer made a motion to proceed with the necessary ordinance to have no parking on either side of West Monroe Street. Seconded by Sirk, the motion passed.

Gilbert also shared that the VFW had requested a handicap parking space along Third Street. Dyer made a motion for the City Attorney to proceed with an ordinance for the next meeting to provide the additional handicap parking spot on Third Street in front of the VFW. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor appeared before the Council regarding an ordinance to increase the Sewer Connection Fee as a follow-up from the January 19, 2021 meeting. Ordinance 2021-1, an ordinance which amends Chapter 54 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 for the purpose of establishing a System Development Fee to be collected from the owners of property before connection to the City's Sewage System or before increasing an owner's capacity, which is based on the water meter size. Sirk made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2021-1 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-1 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-1 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage by a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-1 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-1 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-1 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2021-1 until February 16, 2021 for third reading. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted. A Public Hearing will be scheduled for the Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, which will allow for any public comment before adoption.

The lease with the Decatur Force LLC was brought forward. The Board of Public Works and Safety had approved the general terms of the lease at the December 15, 2020 meeting. The lease is for Decatur Force to use the gym at the M.E.R.I.T. Center for volleyball practices. The lease is from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 for \$18.00/hour Monday through Friday, and \$85.00/day for Saturdays and Sundays. Coshow made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the lease agreement. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

A motion was made by Dyer and seconded by Fullenkamp to approve the use of PayGov.us as a payment option for the HIVE Art Gallery. The motion was adopted.

Resolution 2021-1, a resolution to establish a cash change fund for the Public Arts Director, for the HIVE Art Gallery in the amount of \$100.00 was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2021-1 by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried. City Attorney Tim Baker read Resolution 2021-1 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-1. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed.

The Annual Fee for Service Agreement with the Adams County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) was brought forth. The agreement is for \$49,853.77 for the year of 2021, which is 13% of the City's CEDIT distribution. Dyer made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the Service Agreement with the ACEDC. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

#### Department Heads Input:

Mayor Rickord announced for the Fire Chief that the application process is open for a new firefighter.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager reported that application had been filed on Friday for this round of Community Crossing Matching Grant. If not awarded, we will re-apply again in June. Until the City's population passes 10,000 the match is 75/25. After 10,000 the match is 50/50. If a grant is received this year there is a possibility of a small grant request next year. Gilbert also noted this past weekend had been a long one with all the snow.

As a reminder, Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, announced that any owner of a commercial building wishing to remodel, they need to contact his office as commercial buildings

have different rules and regulations than residential buildings. Also, all contractors must register with his office.

Don Bergdall, Civil Infrastructure Manager noted sewer repair work is continuing throughout the City.

**Council Input:**

Sirk and Coshow both complimented the City workers regarding the work done over the weekend with snow removal.

Mayor Rickord remarked that the streets look really clear. He thanked all those working over the weekend making sure the streets were clean and safe, and for the repairs done on the water break.

Coshow announced that the State of the City Address will be held on February 8, 2021 at Riverside Center. The address will be taped and available on the [decaturchamber.org](http://decaturchamber.org) website.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright presented various event forms. The first event was for May 8, 2021 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. for the Bellmont High School Prom to be held on Madison Street Plaza. They requested to close First Street between Monroe & Jefferson St. Coshow will check with them to make sure this is necessary. Coshow made a motion to approve the Bellmont High School Prom event. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The next event forms included various events sponsored by the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and Decatur Main Street. The forms included the Thursday Night Summer Concert Series from June 3, 2021 through August 26, 2021 on Madison St. Plaza, closing 2<sup>nd</sup> Street crossing along Madison St.; 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration on July 4, 2021 at Riverside Center and field, closing Jackson St. bridge from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Decatur Germanfest on August 22, 2021 on Madison St. Plaza and closing 2<sup>nd</sup> St. crossing Madison St. from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Adams County Highland Games sponsored by the Decatur Chamber of Commerce requested to hold this event at Riverside field on Friday, October 21, 2021, and requested to close Jackson St. bridge to US 224. Dyer made a motion to accept the various event request. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted with Coshow and Sirk abstaining.

Sirk made a motion to make a matter of record the Mayor's appointment of Shane Cauble to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a four-year term ending on December 31, 2024. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Coshow, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 8:53 P.M.