

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2019

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. 2nd Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Meyer. Roll call was taken to show Councilmen Cam Collier, Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney, Tim Baker.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 15, 2019 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, appeared before the Council noting there had been plans the last couple of years to add a person to the Building & Zoning Department. It was shared that Sharon Braun plans to retire by January 1, 2020, and will need to be replaced. Witte presented a job description for an office administrator to hire someone to shadow Ms. Braun for this year and learn her position. It was noted Ms. Braun is very knowledgeable regarding building and zoning issues, and has over 35 years of experience. Following that replacement, likely in October of this year, plans are to advertise to hire an assistant to do building inspections to make the department a three-person department. Sirk made a motion to give Witte the ability to proceed by posting internally and then outside if no one internally is interested or qualifies. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2019-1, and ordinance to amend the City's Purchasing Ordinance, was brought forward for third reading. There were no questions or comments from the public. Coshow made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-1 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Collier the motion was adopted and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-1 by short title only. Coshow made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-1 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was taken with a 5-0 passage. Mayor Meyer announced that Ordinance 2019-1 has been adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, presented the ADA Program Review Report for 2018 for the City of Decatur. He shared that INDOT requires that a certain number of handicap ramps and sidewalks must be addressed each year. The minimum is twelve (12) per year. With the Monroe Street project by INDOT, there were 41 improvements along Monroe Street. He shared one (1) improvement at 1st and Jefferson Streets, eight (8) on Madison Street Plaza, one (1) on 4th Street and Jackson, and four (4) on Peace Keepers Way for a total of 55 ramps being improved in 2018. Gilbert shared that he is the person that is the ADA Coordinator for the City and anyone should contact him with questions and/or concerns.

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director, presented an Event Form for a request to hold a wedding on Madison Street Plaza on Saturday, October 12, 2019. She noted this is a new kind of event and they have met with the individuals multiple times and they are following all regulations, including the use of tents. They are interested in possibly having the tent set up on October 11, 2019 to avoid any possible problems on the wedding day. Dyer made a motion to approve the Event. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Attorney Tim Baker presented Resolution 2019-1, a resolution allowing the City to move forward regarding the possible purchase of up to three (3) properties for the wastewater storage tank. The resolution expresses Common Council interest in purchasing real estate and authorizes Mayor Meyer to be the City's Purchasing Agent in order to get two (2) appraisals for each location. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2019-1 by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was passed and City Attorney Baker read Resolution 2019-1 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-1. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted and Mayor Meyer announced that Resolution 2019-1 has been adopted.

Dyer made a motion to permit Clerk-Treasurer Whitright to write off an outstanding check that was over 2 years old in the amount of \$185, which will be redeposited into the General fund. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted.

The Decatur Chamber of Commerce completed three (3) Event Forms for events to be held on Madison Street Plaza and other locations. There are 18 Summer Concerts scheduled for Thursdays and some Sundays on Madison Street Plaza starting in June and ending Sept. 29th, German fest is scheduled for August 23 & 24, 2019 to be held on the Madison Street Plaza, and the Highland Games will be held again on October 5, 2019 behind Riverside Center. Dyer made a motion to accept the three Events. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed with Coshow abstaining.

Corey Affolder appeared before the Council requesting permission to place a bike rack in front of the DZ Gaming business on Monroe Street. He was told the request needed to be presented before the Decatur Main Street Design Committee. Also, Norby shared she had contacted the State Highway Department to check for compliance and had not heard back from them yet. Affolder also inquired regarding parking for the ABCinema patrons. Mayor Meyer informed him there had been a parking study done by NIRCC a couple years ago resulting with there being 1,461 parking spaces downtown. Collier expressed it was important for Affolder to get information out to which parking is available east of City Hall, and suggested better signage to show where to park. Mayor Meyer shared that if the parking lot is full, other parking lots can be used. Affolder is to notify the Mayor if there are special events, so the City employees can park elsewhere.

Department Head Reports:

Mayor Meyer started the reporting by announcing that he wanted to give a shout out to the Public Works Department. With the snows happening on two weekends in a row and then the below zero temperatures with a water main break on Bollman Street, and then near Bixler Insurance, followed immediately with a break in Anthony Wayne Meadows, the employees did an excellent job with snow removal and repair of the water mains, especially in the extreme cold. Mayor Meyer shared he had received a thank you and note of great appreciation from Geneva Workforce Manager, Robert Johnson regarding Decatur City employees who volunteered last Friday to assist the Town of Geneva in repairing a main water line.

Police Chief, Lennie Corral shared that three (3) new Police Reserves have been hired on the department last Friday, the total number of reserves on the department is now five (5).

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, shared the new water plant project is ongoing, should have a guaranteed price by Feb. 21st.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, stated the sound system for Madison Street Plaza should be completed within the next couple of weeks. He also noted the Town of Geneva situation

and that the Decatur employees had done a wonderful job and that Geneva staff was very grateful for the assistance.

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director, shared that February is “I Love Decatur” month. She distributed a flyer listing events and more than 25 local businesses doing special events with many of them offering specials for those wearing the “I (heart) Decatur” buttons. She urged people to get out and shop Decatur.

City Attorney, Tim Baker shared that Sen. Boots of Crawfordsville had legislation that would eliminate involuntary annexation (SB94), and fringe zones (SB535). He encouraged contacting Rep. Matt Lehman and Sen. Travis Holdman and urging them to vote against those bills. Attorney Baker also noted he wanted to applaud the Public Works Department, especially as he witnessed the work being done at the main break near Bixler’s Insurance, noting he would stack the City workers up against anyone. He also noted the Police and Fire Department employees working through all the bad weather conditions for all residents.

Council Input:

Collier shared he was out at the City Garage for recycling on Sunday and people were sharing concerns about the need for more gravel as the area was wet and sloppy. Collier was informed that this is being taken care of.

Sirk announced the Annual Meeting of the Decatur Main Street would be held on February 12, 2019 at 5 P.M. at ABCinema, with West End Restaurant catering the event, so reservations are required. He also supported Norby’s comment urging people to get out and shop Decatur.

Collier 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 Coshaw, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 8:22 P.M.