

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 7, 2017

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 7, 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 Cameron Collier, Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were City Attorney Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 17, 2017 meeting. There were no corrections. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The first item on the agenda was the introduction of new employees. Police Chief Greg Cook introduced the two new Police Officers: Austin Gross who was hired in December, 2016 and Reid Arnold who was hired in January, 2017. Also, the Police Chief mentioned Officer Kevin Gerber has filled the position of School Resource Officer at North Adams Community Schools. Fire Chief Les Marckel then introduced new Firefighters Taylor Gage and Heath Fullenkamp and noted that both were first responders. Mayor Meyer welcomed the 4 new employees and thanked them for their service. Bill Karbach, Board of Public Works and Safety member, noted it was great to have such qualified people who could begin serving right away.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager introduced Matt Schultz who had recently been promoted to Assistant Operations Manager.

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director appeared before the Council regarding the Madison Street Project. Kevin McCrory was present and a discussion centered on the contract with Jones, Petrie, and Rafinski (JPR). Some questions were asked of Mr. McCrory who stated that he would oversee the project and that the JPR contract would provide engineering services for the project. Mr. McCrory would provide such things as change orders, pay requests, and final punch out at the end. He noted that if the city does part of that work, there would be a reduction in the fee. Dyer made a motion to approve the contract with JPR for Madison Street at a cost of no greater than \$60,000--\$52,500 for basic services plus \$7,500 for construction administrative services. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

It was noted that no work would be done on Madison Street until the razing of the Schafer building. The City is still waiting on the outcome of the Bigg's funding proposal. Looking ahead, the utilities are being disconnected from the building.

It was announced that the DNR would be holding a hearing regarding the St. Mary's Nature Preserve at 5 P.M. on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at Riverside Center. It was noted that Kevin McCrory is working with the City on the Nature Reserve project.

Melissa Norby reviewed the Creating Places, an IHEDA CrowdGranting Program to raise \$50,000 for the Madison Street project. If funds are raised, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHEDA) will match up to \$50,000. She noted she is in the

application process. Tax deductible funding will be available via the on-line program for 30 days.

Mayor Meyer announced the Hometown Collaboration Initiative (HCI) Community Forum will be held Wednesday, February 15, 2017 from 5:30 to 8:30 P.M. at Riverside Center. Food will be provided and participants must register prior to the meeting. Meyer shared that there has been 1172 surveys completed, and he hopes for at least 100 in attendance at the forum.

It was announced by Mayor Meyer that a letter had been received from Dwight Pierce sharing his desire to retire as City Forester as of March 31, 2017. Mr. Pierce was thanked for his great service and wished the best.

Mayor Meyer shared a Letter of Understanding from INDOT regarding the replacing of 2 small structures at US 224 over the Kohne Ditch .35 miles west of US 27. The construction work is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2017. INDOT is to set up and maintain the necessary traffic control for the detour route. Coshow made a motion to accept the Letter of Understanding. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2017-1 regarding Senate Bill 465 which would have adverse effects on the Adams County Solid Waste District was considered. A motion to introduce Resolution 2017-1 by short title only was made by Collier. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed. City Attorney read Resolution 2017-1 by short title only. A motion to adopt Resolution 2017-1 was made by Collier. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

#### Mayor's Report:

The Mayor again urged registration and attendance at the February 15, 2017 Decatur Hometown Collaboration Initiative Community Forum.

#### Department Heads:

No additional reports.

#### General Public:

Larry Isch reminded all to attend the DNR Hearing on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at Riverside Center at 5 P.M.

#### Council Member Input:

Councilman Collier brought up Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. 457 retirement plan. He noted Nationwide also has a plan. Perhaps these plans should be looked into.

City Attorney thanked Councilman Coshow for taking the initiative to educate various Chamber members about the ramifications of SB 465.

Coshow made a motion to pay the claims. Seconded by Dyer, 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 8:20 p.m.