

City of Decatur  
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes  
February 7, 2017

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. Members present were Cameron Collier, Bill Karbach and Mayor Ken Meyer. Also present were City Attorney Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

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

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, presented the ADA Compliance annual review as required by INDOT and the Federal Transportation Board. He noted in the past the locations of sidewalk ramps had been rated as red, yellow, and green. Red being the ones most needing work and green being those in compliance. The new guidelines will probably include those currently listed in the yellow category with those in the red category. Gilbert shared sixteen ramps had been replaced in 2016 as follows: Walnut and Meiber Streets (1), Walnut and St. Mary's (1), Pintail and Grey Goose (3), Grey Goose Blvd. (2), 14<sup>th</sup> and Madison (2), 15<sup>th</sup> and Madison (1), 16<sup>th</sup> and Madison (2), 5<sup>th</sup> and Madison (1), Lake Shores Ct. and Piqua Road (2), and Brandywine Lane and Monroe St. (1). Collier made a motion to make the ADA Program Review list for 2016 a matter of record, seconded by Karbach, and passed. Anyone that has a request to improve a handicap ramp may contact Jeremy Gilbert at [jgilbert@decaturin.org](mailto:jgilbert@decaturin.org)

Mayor Meyer read a letter he had received from Dwight Pierce announcing his plan to retire as City Forester, with his last work day of March 31, 2017. A discussion was held noting the need to advertise the position soon as Pierce has a degree in forestry and there will be a limited amount of possible candidates for the position. It was debated if the individual needs a forestry degree or specific experience. City Attorney Tim Baker suggested the city may want to check institutions such as Purdue University which have forestry degree programs for possible candidates. It was suggested that Pierce may be willing to do some consulting for a new employee. A motion was made by Karbach to make Dwight Pierce's resignation letter a matter of record. Seconded by Collier, the motion passed.

Jeremy Gilbert noted a quote had been received from Fleming Excavating for riverbank clearing along Jackson and Monroe Streets. Fleming has the needed machinery and could do the work on Friday, February 10, 2017 at a maximum cost of \$2,000. By consensus, it was decided to go ahead with the project.

Councilmen Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Wylie Sirk joined the remainder of the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert, Community Development Director, Melissa Norby and Kevin McCrory from Jones Petrie Rafinski (JPR) shared information regarding the Monroe Street Streetscape Program. The lights have been selected at a street grade price of \$4,000 which

does not include the cost of installation which could be up to \$2,000. It was noted that to do the entire area from the Bridge to Third Street they would probably need at least 15 lights. It was shared that \$150,000 had been set aside in the 2017 budget for this project and it was suggested that the City do the work from the Bridge to First Street this year and then encumber any funds remaining this year to be used in 2018. It was also noted that if they do the project by starting with a smaller scale any needed changes could be made. It was shared that INDOT is willing to work on Monroe Street during the second half of their budget year to give the city more time to work on the Streetscape. The Mayor directed the Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert to put together cost estimates and present to the board at a future meeting.

Bill Karbach, Code Enforcement Officer, shared updated information and pictures regarding the Cottonwood trailer court along 13<sup>th</sup> Street. He informed the Board members that the park is owned by Nick Koos. There are 104 lots of which 45 are empty and 59 have trailers. Of the 59 trailers, 32 are dilapidated and vacant and 27 are occupied (8 of which are rental properties). It was noted that some became behind on taxes and since trailers that are at least 10 years old can not be taken on the road, the individuals simply left the trailers as they moved out. As people leave, Mr. Koos has two ladies who clean them up and the electrical problems are corrected so they can be rented. Several of the trailers were described as dilapidated and inhabitable. Councilman Collier noted he understands the desire to clean up the area but that the City has to be concerned about future housing for those currently living there. After lengthy discussion, it was decided by consensus to invite Mr. Koos to attend a Board of Public Works and Safety meeting. Mayor Meyer and City Attorney Tim Baker will work on a letter of invitation emphasizing the desire to work with Mr. Koos before the City takes another step.

Fire Chief, Les Marckel brought two budget items before the Board. He asked to use \$32,000 of the LOIT funds budgeted to continue replacing air packs and \$7,000 to do work on the Aerial truck. This work would include radiator hose, brake lines, valves and so forth as needed on the 20 year old vehicle. Linnemeier Repair Service will do the work. A motion was made by Collier to go ahead using these funds. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Marckel asked permission for the Decatur Fire Department to become an Automatic Responder. He noted the EMS Director had asked if the Decatur Fire Department would be willing to assist as Automatic Responders for such things as vehicle accidents, industrial accidents, cardiac arrest, stroke, and breathing difficulties (Code Blue) calls. Currently they respond after EMS gets to the scene and then calls the Fire Department. Preble, Monroe, and Geneva already are Automatic Responders and Berne plans to become such. A motion was made by Karbach and seconded by Collier to go ahead with this change in protocol. Motion passed.

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director, appeared before the board representing the Decatur Cultural Connection. She shared the group had wanted to put on an Art Show but found there was no facility for the show. They decided to seek permission to use the building previously used by Mark's Heating and Air Conditioning. The members had been in the building and outlined possible ways to use the building for a reception area, meeting room, small rooms, an event hall, and so forth. They would do the work in phases with volunteers and possible art grants. It was learned that the building is owned by the Sewage Utility. Talk needs

to be with the City Utilities and numbers need to be gathered before any further action can be taken.

Greg Cook, Chief of Police, noted the final interviews had been made with 5 candidates to fill the position provided for in the 2017 budget. He noted there were 5 great candidates but there was one which stood out at this time--Blaze Brooks. Karbach made a motion to offer the position to Mr. Brooks. Seconded by Collier, the motion passed. Karbach then made a motion to keep the 4 remaining candidates on file for future use. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Karbach made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Collier, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 7:29 P.M.