

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
February 15, 2022

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. Members present were Craig Coshow, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The first item on the agenda was Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert regarding the paving contract for the 2021-2 Community Crossing Matching Grant. Bids were opened from three (3) bidders at the February 1, 2022 meeting. Gilbert was directed to take the bids under advisement and he and representatives from USI Consultants reviewed the bids and found Wayne Asphalt from Fort Wayne to be the lowest and responsive bidder. Gilbert noted that the paperwork needed to be sent to the State by March 3, 2022. Fullenkamp made a motion to accept the Wayne Asphalt bid of \$1,087,673.90, and authorize signing to accept the bid and approving the contract with Wayne Asphalt. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. It was noted that all payment and performance bonds had been properly provided with the contract.

Next on the agenda was Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager who is also the City's ADA Coordinator presented the annual ADA report. Gilbert shared that twelve (12) ramps are to be updated each year if funds are available. Due to lack of funds, six (6) ramps were improved in 2021. Gilbert reported that there are 142 ramps at the red level to complete, 60 at the yellow level, and 349 are at the green level. Fullenkamp made a motion to make the ADA report a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert requested a need for a discussion regarding improvements for the Sanitation Department. Mayor Rickord suggested that he would also like time to discuss a plan for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) established by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). By consensus it was decided to set a Special Common Council meeting, which the date and time will be determined during the Council meeting later this evening.

Next on the agenda was Police Chief Lennie Corral requesting to remove two (2) officers from probationary status to 1st Class Patrol Officers after their hire date. Chief Corral submitted letters of the request for Officer Gabe Schwaller and Officer Jagg Nunez as they have completed their one (1) year of probationary status. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve Officers Schwaller and Nunez to be removed from probationary status to a 1st Class Patrol Officer and adjust their salaries accordingly. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Police Chief Lennie Corral announced that Technical Sgt. Andrew Elwell has recently been served deployment papers. He is now in training in Texas and will return for further training at Fort Wayne before being deployed to Africa. Chief Corral plans to put a package together to send to Officer Elwell sometime around June. The Chief reported that Officer Teddy Bessesen is currently back to work doing light duty. With the deployment and Officer Bessesen's returning on light duties, Chief Corral noted they would be in good shape. Officer Elwell's deployment is scheduled for February 13, 2022 to December 13, 2022. Coshow made a motion to make the Indiana Air National Guard Notice of Military Active

Service of Technical Sgt. Andrew Elwell a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord read a letter of resignation from the HIVE Director, Emily Lairson as she wants to spend more time with her art career. Lairson's final day of work will be March 11, 2022. Mayor Rickord will be filling this position soon. Coshow made a motion to make Emily Lairson's letter of resignation a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord then read a letter of resignation from the paid on-call Firefighter, Roger Gage and also received an email from Fire Chief, Les Marckel that Matt Lose who was also a paid on-call Firefighter recently retired. Roger Gage had served around 40 years, and Matt Lose near 23 years. Coshow made a motion to make the letter of resignation, and the email of the paid on-call firemen Roger Gage and Matt Lose a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed. Mayor Rickord thanked Gage and Lose for the time they had given to the Decatur Fire Department.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor appeared before the Board to inform them that the Request for Proposals/Qualifications (RFPQ) for the possible solar project for the east water plant had been published in *The Decatur Daily Democrat* on January 28, 2022 and February 4, 2022. Bids were to be opened this evening, but no bids had been received. Hackman commented that it may have been caused due to the time restraints. Hackman also added that there have been some legislative changes and may be able to do this in the future. Coshow thanked Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo for their work involved in putting things in order for the advertisement. Fullenkamp made a motion to make the advertisement for bids for the possible solar project a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Utilities Auditor Kevin Hackman then sought permission to use Dixon Engineering for the repainting of the east water tower. Dixon Engineering has done work for the City for several years and had inspected the water tower last year and had recommended repainting it within the next two (2) years. Although Dixon will not be doing the painting, they will do the work of getting bids for the painting and inspecting the work. Dixon Engineering's agreement for professional services will be for time and material and is estimated at \$34,000. Hackman informed the Board that the cost including the painting of the water tower will be approximately \$200,000 when completed. City Attorney Anne Razo had reviewed the agreement and suggested some changes especially in the area of liability. It was noted the painting would include the Decatur name and possibly the Belmont logo which would likely not increase the painting costs. Fullenkamp made a motion to accept the agreement with Dixon Engineering and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement after the revisions are made that were requested by the City Attorney. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Fire Chief Les Marckel appeared before the Board seeking permission to begin the process of hiring a person to replace Fire Captain, Jeff Sheets when he becomes Fire Chief on April 29, 2022. Chief Marckel also wants to include the possibility of a lateral appointment as part of the hiring process. Chief Marckel noted that with the retirements of the on-call firefighters, Roger Gage and Matt Lose, he hopes to hire replacements. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow Chief Marckel to proceed with the hiring process for one (1) full-time firefighter and two (2) on-call firefighters. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Fire Chief Les Marckel then requested to use funds from the 2022 LIT-Public Safety budget to replace the heating/air conditioning (HVAC) system for the living section at the fire station. Currently the fire station has three (3) heating systems and it is difficult to regulate the temperature of the living section. Chief Marckel presented quotes from Master's Heating and Air Cooling, Inc. for \$18,072.00 and Arnold Mechanical for \$15,497.00. The system would be a gas forced air system which would totally replace the living section unit. Arnold Mechanical was the lowest quote and was also the company that has done work before for the fire department. Chief Markel commented that he was wanting to get approval to

move forward so he could lock in the prices for the parts, but the work will likely begin by mid-April, 2022. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow Chief Marckel to proceed with having Arnold Mechanical do the work of replacing the HVAC system for the living section of the fire station. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo informed the Board that she has a letter of Engagement with Attorney Robert W. Eherenman of Haller & Colvin, P.C. to be Special Counsel for the City of Decatur Board of Zoning Appeals for a hearing on a special exception to be heard on March 1, 2022. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve hiring Attorney Robert Eherenman as Special Counsel for the City of Decatur's Board of Zoning Appeals hearing on March 1, 2022. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright announced that she had received the Tax Deed for 710 Schirmeyer Street property. Fullenkamp made a motion to make the Tax Deed a matter of record and authorize the Building Supt., Curt Witte to demolish the home. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Fullenkamp made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 6:55 P.M.