

City of Decatur
Common Council Minutes
February 21, 2017

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 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 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 February 7, 2017 meeting. There were no corrections, Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Todd Williams appeared before the Council to introduce Hoosier S.T.A.R.T., a deferred compensation program for state and local employees. He stated that Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. could be used in conjunction with the 457 plan or alone. He suggested if a resolution is adopted it should allow all employees (full-time and part-time) to participate and that it allow application to be pre-tax or after-tax Roth. He shared what he felt were 3 key benefits of the Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. Program. First, because of its design, it is easy for employees and the City to use; secondly, by its size and design it is extremely cost effective; and thirdly, it is unique in that those presenting the program are unbiased as they have no part in the program. Mr. Williams shared costs of Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. versus Nationwide using a default program for the statistics which showed great savings for employees in the Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. Plan.

Mayor Meyer read a letter from DeVoss, Johnson, Zwick, Baker and Ainsworth, which was prepared by Scott Ainsworth in his position as the attorney for the North Adams Community Schools. North Adams had been looking for ways to part with Worthman Field. As per the letter, North Adams is obligated to offer the property to the City of Decatur as the City had previously owned the property and had given it to the North Adams Schools. The City was given 90 days to respond. Currently the insurance and utilities are paid by North Adams and the City is taking care of the rest of the upkeep. Tyler Fullenkamp made a motion that the City of Decatur accept the Worthman Field Property as a donation. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. It will be decided later if the City will have charge of the property or if the Parks Department will be in charge.

Coshow, on behalf of Main Street, presented an Event Application for the Decatur Main Street Summer Concert dates. Six concerts are scheduled for Madison Street between First and Second Streets from 5:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. It is estimated that 200-600 people attend these concerts. Dyer made a motion to approve the application. Collier seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Upon motion by Sirk and seconded by Dyer it was made a matter of record that the City of Decatur pay an annual fee to the Adams County Economic Development Corporation in the amount of \$40,590.29 for the year 2017 to be made in two payments from the City's CEDIT fund. Motion carried.

Mayor Meyer announced that earlier in the evening the Board of Public Works and Safety had approved bids for the Master Drive Storm Water Project. Three bids had been received and the winning bid was awarded to Fleming Excavating, Inc. at a cost of \$246,531.39.

The project should begin in the next few weeks. The Mayor shared the City will be working with engineers to get bids for the new water lines on Master Drive.

Mayor Meyer shared that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had held a hearing on February 8, 2017 regarding the St. Mary's Nature Preserve. He noted he had invited anyone at the hearing to attend the Council Meeting if they desired. Doug Rieth, resident of Stratton, was in attendance and noted he was not against the Preserve. He stated he felt the area was in the flood plain and questioned if something would be done in the future to keep sewers from backing up in their homes in times of flooding. The City Attorney remarked that the new Sewer Interceptor will help with sewers backing up from flooding. Also shared regarding safety along the trail, was that in the 17 years the police had been called out only 15 times and most of those were not for criminal issues.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Meyer thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers the last few weeks due to his mother's death. He also noted the Hometown event had been postponed from February 15, 2017 to February 22, 2017 at Riverside Center and shared that he hoped to see a good attendance at the event.

Department Heads:

Les Marckel, Fire Chief noted the grass truck chassis is in. He thanked Thunderbird/Formula for a donation of a rescue boat and a reduced cost of \$2,200 for a second boat which is far below the normal cost. He asked if the City had ever looked into an on-line site to sell any items as he felt the one rescue boat with a leak would be disposed of locally, but could possibly be of use by another entity if they purchased it and repaired it.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared "Pot Hole" season had arrived as they have been out filling pot holes.

City Attorney Tim Baker thanked all who had made contact regarding SB 465 sponsored by Senator Brown concerning funding of Waste Districts. He shared that it has died in Committee. He shared that SB 213 is out of the Senate Committee and if passed; cities would lose a great deal of local control regarding cell towers being placed in city right-a-ways. He stated that he would be meeting in Indianapolis on Thursday to work with a group of attorneys at the request of AIM to try to dilute the bill or get it defeated.

Baker also updated Council members and those in attendance about a court case that would have great financial losses for tax receiving units. It is a Tax Court Case from Howard County that would tax big box stores at a much lower rate. He shared it causes \$3.5 million loss state-wide. If not taken by the Supreme Court or if the Supreme Court agrees with the lower court the losses would occur and could only be reversed by legislative action. It was noted that the big box stores could even go back and request refunds for previous years.

Coshow made a motion to pay the claims. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed.

There being no other business to come before the Council, Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Coshow seconded the motion which passed.

Adjournment was at 8:39 p.m.