

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
February 22, 2021

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. Members present were Craig Coshow, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and Attorney Anne Razo who was in attendance for the City Attorney, Tim Baker who was absent.

Since the meeting had been postponed on February 16, 2021, due to the snow emergency, and was rescheduled for February 22, 2021, Fullenkamp made a motion to make a matter of record the rescheduling of the meeting was properly posted, and the media had been notified. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Police Chief Lennie Corral appeared before the Board regarding various actions. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow for two (2) payments instead of three (3) regarding the signing bonus of \$2,000 for Officer Jagg Nunez. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to pay lateral transfer Officer Jagg Nunez be paid the 1st Class Patrolman pay during the first year of his probationary period. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to add an addendum to the Conditional Employment Contract for Officer Nunez to also include the \$2,000 signing bonus. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion approving the Conditional Employment Contract with the addendum with Officer Nunez, and authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract on behalf of the City. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office for Officer Jagg Nunez a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow. Motion carried

Police Chief Lennie Corral requested permission to move Officer Dennis Bosler to 1st Class Patrolman status as he has completed his one year of probationary period on February 3rd. Coshow made a motion to move Officer Bosler to 1st Class Patrolman. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office for Police Patrolman Gabe Schwaller a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make the Conditional Employment Contract for Police Patrolman Gabe Schwaller a matter of record, and authorize Mayor Rickord to sign the contract on behalf of the City. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent appeared before the Board regarding several abatement issues for homes in need of work. The first residence was at 223 South 7th Street, Decatur.

Witte noted the house was beyond repair and the new owner was told he would be wise to demolish the home and build new. The owner is willing to pay the City to do the demolition, and he would pay 100% of the bill. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow the City to demolish the home with the owner paying 100% of the cost. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The second residence is located at 628 Trails End, Decatur. The original complaint had been received on July 15, 2020 for weeds and have many cats. A drive by was done on July 20, 2020 and some work had been done, so a letter thanking the owner for some progress having been done with more to be completed. It was shared that the owner had 22 cats on the property. Numerous contacts had been made with the owner being given a time limit to get rid of the cats. Witte noted he recommends turning the situation over to legal council. It was noted the resident has had seven (7) months of notifications. Following a discussion, Coshow made a motion to have the City Attorney send a letter to the resident, giving him/her 30 days to comply or a fine of \$100 a day will be imposed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The third residence is located at 734 Spencer Street, Decatur. It was shared that on July 30, 2020 the owner had been given the notice to abate rubbish and noted the limit of three (3) animals allowed per residence as per City Code, while there were seven (7) dogs on the property. It was noted the individual had attended the October 6, 2020 Board of Public Works and Safety meeting and took the application to appear before the BZA to seek a waiver for being a kennel. However, he never returned the application. Witte shared that the owner had been given at least seven (7) notifications. Coshow made a motion to have the City Attorney send a letter to the resident, giving him 30 days to comply or a fine of \$100 per day will be imposed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The fourth location is 804 Schirmeyer Street, Decatur. The first complaint was received on November 13, 2020. Kylie Harvey, owner, appeared before the Board of Public Works and Safety on January 5, 2021 and noted her husband is disabled and she works and does not have time to do much of the clean-up but planned to get someone to do the work. Witte had requested Mrs. Harvey call his office to notify him of progress and noted she had called and shared she planned to work on cleaning up the area. However, during a drive-by today, Witte noted there was still a lot of clutter. Fullenkamp made a motion to have the City Attorney send a letter to the resident, giving them 30 days to comply and call for an inspection or a fine of \$100 a day will be imposed. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Witte noted that as long as the residents keep communicating with his department, he is willing to keep working with them.

The fifth residence is at 437 Mercer Avenue, Decatur. Witte noted a letter had been sent to the owner regarding a hole in the roof. He shared the owner had pulled a permit but little action has been done. A notice had been sent for weeds, leaves and other vegetation with a follow-up thanking the owner for doing some clean-up, but informed him that more work needed to be done and the hole in the roof needed to be repaired. The owner, David Wilson appeared before the Board of Pubic Works and Safety on December 15, 2020, noting he had been quarantined for COVID-19 and Superintendent Witte extended that current permit for 30 days. Superintendent Witte noted he had driven by the residence today and there was still no change. Coshow made a motion to send a letter requesting the owner to call the Building and Zoning Department to request an inspection or a fine of \$100 a day will be imposed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before the Board to discuss the Second Street Streetscape Project. He noted that no work was done last summer because of their busy schedule and COVID-19. So, money set aside to do Phase 2 of the project in 2020 had been encumbered to do the work in 2021. Thus, with the money budgeted for the project in the 2021 budget, there is \$438,560 in funds available for the work from Madison Street to the alley at the State Farm Insurance building. Following

the opening of quotes for concrete, Gilbert noted he feels there is an additional \$103,000 of funds available after finishing Phases 2 and 3. The cost of the sidewalk replacement, electrical work, tree grates, benches, trees, and brick banding for Madison to Jefferson Street is \$164,758.75 and the cost for the same items for Jefferson Street to the alley at the State Farm Insurance building is \$170,503.60. It was noted that \$29,640 had been paid in 2020 for decorative lights. Upon recommendation from Operations Manager Gilbert, Coshow made a motion to accept the low quote for concrete work for Madison Street to Jefferson Street of \$114,008.60 from TG Concrete. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion authorizing Mayor Rickord to sign the contract with TG Concrete for Phase 2 of the Second Street Streetscapes Project from Madison Street to Jefferson St in the amount of \$114,008.60. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The low quote for the concrete work for Phase 3 of the Second Street Streetscapes Project from Jefferson Street to the alley by the State Farm Insurance building was \$66,540.00 from TG Concrete. Coshow made a motion to accept the quote of \$66,540.00 from TG Concrete and authorized Mayor Rickord to sign the contract. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert shared that the City has done work with Tom Rorick Electric and Bleeke Electric over the years and Bleeke Electric had declined the work this year. Since he has been talking with Tom Rorick of Rorick Electric regarding the wiring materials for the Second St. Streetscapes Project, it was noted that the companies would only hold their quotes for 24 hours and that the quotes have gone up approximately \$1,500 the last seven (7) days. Gilbert sought permission to spend \$24,764.00 to purchase wiring materials in order to lock in the price and the City would store them until used this summer. He noted that there will be some rebate, as the wire comes in a larger quantity than needed and what they do not use will be returned to the company for a refund. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow for the purchase of the needed wire at a cost of \$24,764.00. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager requested permission to purchase other materials, the tree grates and benches for the Second Street Streetscapes Project so they will be here when they are ready to place them this summer. Fullenkamp made a motion to move forward with purchasing the benches and tree grates. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Councilman Wylie Sirk inquired about lighting at the four (4) corners around the Court House as he feels that it would be significant impact to set off the Court House Square for the Second St. Streetscapes Project. Jeremy Gilbert will get different options for lighting and present at a future meeting.

Gilbert noted there are other areas around the City that needs to be looked at regarding sidewalks, such as, along Jefferson Street from 1st to 2nd Street, and also 3rd St. He also noted bump-outs for the streetscapes work are debatable and it was shared that the business owners need to be contacted to see what they want.

The annual bids for street material, equipment and labor bids had been opened at the February 2, 2021 meeting and taken under advisement by Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert for his review. Gilbert shared the bids from the stone companies--Stone Street Quarries from Hoagland, KBL Transport from Portland and US Aggregates from Richmond had not submitted bid bonds with their bids. He noted Fleming Excavating, Inc. of Decatur, Luginbill Excavating of Berne, Wayne Asphalt of Fort Wayne and Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne had filed everything correctly. It was noted since the City crushes their own stone now, not enough stone is purchased to seek stone bids. Fullenkamp made a motion to recommend that stone be bought off the market and that the bids from Fleming, Luginbill, Wayne Asphalt, and Brooks Construction be accepted. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

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

Adjournment was at 7:25 P.M.