

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:35 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Councilman Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and Attorney Anne Razo, attending for City Attorney, Tim Baker who was absent.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the February 2, 2021 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to make a matter of record that the postponement of the meeting of February 16, 2021 had been changed due to the snow emergency to February 22, 2021 and had been properly posted and the media notified. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

First on the agenda were various Ordinances. Ordinance 2021-2, which amends Chapter 78, Schedule III of the Decatur Code of Ordinances on 2015, to provide for a handicap parking space on the west side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street near the VFW, was first brought forth. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-2 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried. Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2021-2 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-2 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed a 5-0 passage. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-2 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was carried and Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2021-2 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-2 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-2 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2021-2 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-2 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2021-3, an ordinance which amends Chapter 78, Schedule I of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 to establish a no parking zone on West Monroe Street west of Westlawn Drive, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-3 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was carried and Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2021-3 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-3 on its first reading. Seconded by Fullenkamp, a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-3 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried and Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2021-3 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-3 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2021-3 for its third and final reading on March 2, 2021. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was carried.

Ordinance 2021-4, an ordinance to amend the salary ordinance of 2020-12 to permit a lateral signing bonus to be offered to Jag Nunez to join the Decatur Police Department in 2021 was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-4 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2021-4 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-4 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call

vote showed a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-4 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2021-4 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-4 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed 5-0 passage. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-4 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2021-4 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-4 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and passed with a 5-0 vote.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, appeared before the Council to further discuss the ProChamps program. Fullenkamp noted he had received a lot of feedback regarding the concept. The concern of Council members centered around the definition of vacant buildings. It was noted if the property owner does not take care of the property and/or utilities are disconnected then those owners could be registered. Witte noted that if the owner is taking care of the property they will not be penalized. It was noted that the City can withdraw from the program after two (2) years via ordinance if they so desire. After lengthy discussion, Superintendent Witte is to work with Attorney Tim Baker and Attorney Anne Razo and email his marked up and updated ordinance proposal to the Council members, and then the Council members are to make their changes and then present the proposed ordinance at a future meeting.

Pursuant to Indiana Code, Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright sought permission to write off four checks totaling \$191.50 that are over two (2) years old. Sirk made a motion to authorize Clerk-Treasurer Whitright to write off the checks that over two (2) years old. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord shared that the Public Arts Director, Shelby Nower is working with City Attorney Tim Baker regarding a contract for rental use of The HIVE. Sirk and Coshow remarked that they felt the groups that are working for the betterment of the community should not be charged rent to use the facility, such as Decatur Main Street and the Decatur Sculpture Tour, but charge for private use. Building Supt., Curt Witte informed the Council that the architects had designed the building to be used only for an Art Gallery, if used for other purposes, state approval will be needed. Further discussion will take place at the next Council meeting.

#### Department Heads Input:

Police Chief Lennie Corral announced that Officer Colyn Torson had reported to the Academy on February 15, 2021. He also noted that Alex Smith has passed the psychological and physical testing, and is waiting on approval from PERF to hire him.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager shared that everyone had done a wonderful job the last week with all the snow, and was proud of all employees doing all the extra work. The work began on February 13, 2021 when he received a call from the Town of Geneva with five (5) water main breaks, Decatur employees then went to Geneva to assist them. Gilbert noted that a few days later they met and came up with a plan of where everyone would be, especially overnight, as they anticipated the large snowfall. It was noted that the next several days with the warmer temperatures the snow will be melting, Gilbert cautioned that there will be slick spots with the water left on the roads freezing. Gilbert also reported that work is being done at Hanna Nuttman ball park to prepare for the spring tournaments that are already scheduled for May 14-16, 2021.

Mayor Rickord echoed the comments made by Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert. He noted he had ridden along with Gilbert and others and noted that Gilbert was out all night to make certain things ran smoothly.

Mayor Rickord announced that sign up for baseball was down some and they are re-opening the sign-up time two (2) more days this week.

Clerk-Treasurer Whitright announced that due to the snow emergency on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, that the Public Hearing for the final reading of Ordinance 2021-1 to establish a Sewer System Development Fee has been rescheduled and re-advertised to be held at the March 2, 2021 Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

#### Council Input:

Murray shared an issue with semi traffic going down Jackson and Marshall Street. Murray had talked with a driver and learned they were following the GPS and not aware of signs. Police Chief Lennie Corral, Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert, and Mayor Rickord had looked at the situation and the appropriate signage is to be posted.

#### Public comments:

Resident Carol Young and Leah Springer were present to voice their concerns regarding not having a rendering of the finished area of the new water treatment plant on County Road 600 north. They are upset with the lighting and felt the area needs to be finished to make it look nicer. The City will look at this in the spring.

Sirk made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 8:50 P.M.