

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2021

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7:30 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 Councilmen Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Tim Baker.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was an update regarding The HIVE. Shelby Nower, part-time Director of The HIVE appeared before the Council to introduce herself. Ms. Nower shared that she is trying to contact loft residents, but is finding that to be a challenging job. It was noted that Ms. Nower wished to get art from local artists on display and have classes available in the future. She noted she has not set definite hours but will adjust the hours and would be open by appointment. She has had the first art show in February and will have the next show in April. Mayor Rickord had been at The HIVE on Friday evening and when he was on the outside, the area looked really nice with the lighting. Mayor Rickord mentioned that people in Decatur are showing up at The HIVE which is giving them an outlet for their talents. City Attorney Tim Baker commented that he was impressed with Shelby Nower as they have exchanged emails and she has been quite detailed with her responses. Councilman Dyer noted he was impressed with the Facebook page for The HIVE. It was noted that Ms. Nower, who is also an artist has a painting on display in the Indiana Lt. Governor's office.

Ordinance 2021-3, an ordinance which amends Chapter 78, Schedule 1 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 third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-3 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-3 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Councilman Sirk shared that he appreciated receiving the marked up copy of a possible ordinance for ProChamps from the Building & Zoning Supt., Curt Witte. Attorney Baker and Mayor Rickord are still working on language as a result of questions from Department Heads and Council members. It was noted some definitions need clarification as well as the penalties if there are violations. An ordinance may be ready for consideration at the next meeting on March 16th.

Sirk made a motion to make a matter of record Mayor Rickord's appointment of Dennis Scheumann to the Decatur Plan Commission for a four-year term ending on December 31, 2024. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright had published the City's Cash & Investment Statement of 2020 as required by State Board of Accounts. Dyer made a motion to make the publication a matter of record. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Whitright presented an event form for Kekionga Festival sponsored by the Decatur Chamber of Commerce to be held August 11 through August 15, 2021 at Riverside Center

and field. They are requesting closing a portion of Jackson Street on Friday and Saturday. Sirk made a motion to approve the event and street closing. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted with Coshaw abstaining.

Sirk made a motion to suspend the Council meeting and open a Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 2021-1, an ordinance which amends Chapter 54 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 for the purpose of establishing a System Development Fee to be collected from the owners of property before connection to the City's Sewage System or before increasing an owner's capacity, which is based on the water meter size. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Tim Baker explained the purpose of the Public Hearing by giving a summary of Ordinance 2021-1. Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, has studied 25 communities in the area and of similar size to Decatur and found the average fee to be \$1,200.00. Based on the size of the water meter, Ordinance 2021-1 includes a residential rate to increase from \$250 to \$1,000. Dyer made a motion to make the report showing that 25 communities had been studied, and also the Indiana comparative rate study that was provided by AIM a matter of record. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to make a matter of record that the Public Hearing was properly advertised in *The Decatur Daily Democrat*. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

There being no one in the audience to testify regarding Ordinance 2021-1, Sirk made a motion to close the Public Hearing and re-open the Council meeting. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Tim Baker shared that since the hearing had been postponed from February 16, 2021 due to the snow emergency, the effective date needed to be amended in the Ordinance from April 1, 2021 to April 15, 2021. Sirk made a motion to amend Ordinance 2021-1 by changing the effective date from April 1, 2021 to April 15, 2021. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-1, an ordinance which amends Chapter 54 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 for the purpose of establishing a System Development Fee to be collected from the owners of property before connection to the City's Sewage System or before increasing an owner's capacity which is based on the water meter size, as amended on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-1 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-1 as amended on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and showed passage by a 5-0 vote.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief Lennie Corral reported a drug bust known as Operation Boomerang had taken place early this morning with four (4) people arrested in Decatur. Meth, heroin and cocaine had been found and a total of ten (10) individuals had been rounded up with one (1) still at large.

Don Bergdall, Civil Infrastructure Manager, noted sewer work is still in progress.

Council Input:

Murray commended Curt Witte, Building & Zoning Supt. for his work in cleaning up properties.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Sirk, 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 7:42 P.M.