

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2016

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 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 Cam Collier, Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present was 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 March 1st meeting. There were no corrections or amendments. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Sirk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Meyer read a proclamation for SAFE (Supporting all Families Everyday) declaring the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention month. Sandy Brown, spokesperson for the group announced several upcoming events. Pinwheels were handed out as a positive and loving symbol of childhood.

Attorney, Fred Schurger representing Dolco Packaging, now a division of Tekniplex, Inc. was present along with Greg Meyer, and Jim Baumgartner from Dolco. Mr. Meyer gave a history of Dolco Packaging and explained and showed photos of the capital improvement project to upgrade manufacturing equipment costing approximately \$5 million. The local plant currently employs 220 people, and is expected to hire an additional 20. Employee's annual wage and benefits will be increased by approximately \$1.1 million. All current employees will be retained. They are anticipating the project to begin in May 2016 and be completed by February 2017. Mr. Meyer mentioned Decatur's plant supports their other five plants. Dolco Packaging is requesting the Common Council to pass a resolution designating the real estate an economic revitalization area located at 2110 Patterson Street, and to allow a seven (7) year deduction for the new manufacturing equipment. The City Attorney, Tim Baker explained the process of an abatement, and traditionally the City has approved five year abatements for equipment. Schurger reported he spoke with Adams County Economic Development Director, Larry Macklin about the positive impact Adams County will receive from the salaries. The City Attorney informed Council they can confirm, confirm and amend, or rescind the number of years after a public hearing is held at the next council meeting. Attorney, Fred Schurger prepared a Declaratory Resolution No. 2016-3, for the designation of an economic revitalization area upon the application of Tekniplex, Inc, doing business as Dolco Packaging. Councilman Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution No. 2016-3, based on a seven (7) year abatement. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The City Attorney, Tim Baker read Resolution No. 2016-3 in its entirety. Sirk made a motion to pass Declaratory Resolution No. 2016-3, Collier seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried. A public hearing will be advertised and held on April 5th at 7:30 p.m. and all taxing units will be notified of the abatement.

The City Attorney gave an update on the properties and easements purchased for the Sewer Interceptor project. The City Engineer announced that bids for this project will be advertised on March 28th, and bids opening will be on April 26th. The estimated schedule for construction is to begin in July 2016, or as soon as permits are in place. Construction should be completed in December 2016.

Building Supt., Roger Gage informed Council \$50,000.00 has been budgeted this year for sidewalk improvements, and \$25,000 has already been committed towards the 50/50 sidewalk program. Gage asked Council if there are any areas that need sidewalk improvements. Councilman Fullenkamp suggested the east side of Winchester Street. The Mayor recommended not making a decision at this time, but to discuss in the near future.

The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright informed Council an encumbrance from last year was approved for \$74,000 towards a garbage truck box from the sanitation department budget. The Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert is requesting to use \$45,000 of the \$75,000 towards the recycling trucks that Council approved purchasing from the City of Hammond from the previous meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve amending the encumbrance for the garbage truck box, and use \$45,000 to purchase the two (2) recycling trucks. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor reported on the call for INDOT projects. Projects now compete with other communities, if awarded, construction will not begin until 2020.

Police Chief, Greg Cook announced the Decatur Police Department will have an Open House on Wednesday, March 23rd from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert handed out an activity guide, and spring break activities brochure, sponsored by Decatur-Adams County Parks & Recreation and the Adams Public Library System. Gilbert announced the Parks & Recreation is sponsoring a bus trip on July 4th for a Chicago Cubs game. Tickets and transportation is \$99 per person. Also, there will be a Decatur night for a Tin Caps game on Saturday, August 13th at 7:05 p.m. no transportation will be provided, tickets are \$7. Anyone interested in the ball games should contact Ryan at Riverside Center at 724-2520.

City Attorney, Tim Baker mentioned that as part of the negotiations in purchasing the utility easement for the Macklin property, the City agreed to demolish the building. There is an unimproved platted alley between the two Macklin properties on 1st Street, and Janet S. Macklin is petitioning for the vacation of a portion of the alley, containing .032 acres. Baker informed Council that a Public Hearing is required for a petition to vacate an alley. Councilman Dyer requested to proceed with the public hearing to be held at the next council meeting on April 5th. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Clerk-Treasurer will publish the notice for a public hearing on April 5th at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The City Attorney reported he is meeting with the owner of the former Gerber's building to acquire the property for the Nature Preserve. Also, he has met with County Attorney, Mark Burry and Attorney, Stacy Somers, and Kristi Sturtz who is requesting a super voluntary annexation for the county jail at the April 5th meeting to meet the July deadline. There has been discussion on who pays for the Fiscal Plan and road maintenance. Baker will check on this, and report back.

Fullenkamp made a motion to allow the claims as presented. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Dyer made a motion for adjournment. Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.