

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2020

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:07 p.m. via conference call, due to COVID-19. 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 was Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney, Tim Baker.

A notice was posted and the public and media were invited to attend the conference call.

Other individuals present for the conference call were: Chief of Police Lennie Corral, Utility Auditor Kevin Hackman, Fire Chief Les Marckel, Assistant Fire Chief Jim Hitchcock, Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert, Wastewater Superintendent Karey Fuelling, Ann Razo, Rob Weaver of WZBD Radio, and Barb Engle.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the March 3, 2020 regular meeting, and March 20 and March 25, 2020 Special Council meetings. The March 17th meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3rd meeting and the two Special meetings. Murray seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The request for renewal of the tax abatement from Tekni-Plex, Inc. (Dolco Packaging) as the CF-1 form had been completed by Dan Beer, Plant Controller. Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright read that the CF-1 form showed that as estimated on the SB-1 form was 220 employees, but actual is 241. The estimated salaries show \$11,100,000 but are now actually \$14,280,000. Additional employees estimated was 20, actual is 21. The abatement is for manufacturing equipment. Sirk made a motion to approve the renewal of the tax abatement for Tekni-Plex (Dolco Packaging). Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was Ordinance 2020-5, an ordinance to establish a non-revering operating fund for construction, maintenance costs, and annual fees related to locating a baby box and alarm system at the Decatur Fire Station. There were no questions, so Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-5 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-5 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-5 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-5 on its second reading by short title only. Murray seconded the motion which passed. City Attorney Baker then read Ordinance 2020-5 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-5 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passed with a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2020-5 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray the motion passed and Ordinance 2020-5 was read by short title only by City Attorney, Tim Baker. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-5 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray a roll call vote was held and Ordinance 2020-5 passed with a 5-0 vote. Following the passage of Ordinance 2020-5, City Attorney Baker told Council members they could stop by City Hall to sign the Ordinance or print off a copy and sign that copy and provide it to the Clerk-Treasurer. Council members asked Clerk-Treasurer Whitright to let them know when the document is ready for signatures.

Department Heads:

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert noted they are near completion of demolition of two (2) flood properties. Gilbert noted work is continuing at Hanna Nuttman Park with about 90% completion of the concession buildings. Gilbert then announced good news was received from the Governor's Office that the City would be receiving \$812,094.02 from the Community Crossing Grant, which the City will match at 25%.

Fire Chief, Les Marckel shared that the use of media such as the conference call this evening may be the way the department will hold the pre-construction meeting regarding the new fire truck. He noted the plant is not receiving any visitors. The salesman had said he would come to Decatur with the needed equipment for such a meeting if needed. Marckel noted the cost for trips to the plant were included in the cost of the project. Sirk inquired if the trips could be eliminated and those costs deducted from the total cost. Marckel did not know the amounts and that he would still like to go to the plant when possible. Assistant Chief Hitchcock noted that if the use of conferencing works, then perhaps Sirk's idea of saving costs might work. Marckel shared that he was not ready to travel immediately after the suspension of travel is lifted.

Fire Chief Marckel also shared that beginning on Saturday the department will be doing a little change in operations in order to change shifts to keep men on every other day to keep safe in case anyone gets sick with the coronavirus. They will operate with A, B, and C shifts until the Governor lifts the Executive Orders which have been made for two-week periods. Marckel noted the department is taking every protection possible, especially for medical runs, and are taking everything daily, and if they end up a person short, they will need to adjust. He noted he will re-evaluate on a daily basis.

Mayor Rickord noted the City will continue to follow the Governor's order and continue doing business as they have been doing regarding COVID-19 protection. He encouraged people not to get into groups, think of your elderly relatives, and please follow the rules. He also asked citizens to think of the medical professions that are sacrificing for all of us. He encouraged prayer and noted we will get through this situation.

City Attorney, Tim Baker noted he had received an email from Rod Renkenberger, Director of the Maumee River Basin Commission who had shared that he is concerned regarding his daughter who is a physical therapist in a Florida nursing home and he had concerns for her safety in relation to the COVID-19 virus. Attorney Baker asked for prayers for Renkenberger and his daughter.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Superintendent asked people to only flush toilet paper as other items would cause sewer problems.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright reminded all Department Heads to keep a file of any costs related to the coronavirus situation as reimbursement could be possible.

Coshow noted he had looked at all the claims and felt they were in order. However, he inquired about using funds for food and beverages at a meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Whitright shared that the State Board of Accounts doesn't allow expenses for food and beverages, unless Council determines that the training is used to promote the City. Fire Chief Marckel asked if food and beverage costs could be used for meetings held with the Fire Chiefs of the County Fire and was told those expenses are appropriate as the meetings are promoting the City. Coshow made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Fullenkamp, 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 7:40 P.M.