

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
April 17, 2018

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. Members present were Councilman Craig Coshow, Bill Karbach, and Mayor Ken Meyer. Also present were City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the April 3, 2018 meeting. Coshow made a motion to approve the minutes. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Attorney, Tim Baker brought up the discrepancy in the City ordinance and City code regarding hearing authority for unsafe buildings and who should appoint the hearing officer. Board of Works member, Bill Karbach who is also an employee of the city as Code Enforcement Officer, cannot serve as hearing authority for unsafe buildings. A motion was made by Coshow to approve Timothy Manges, an attorney from Fort Wayne, Indiana as a hearing officer, and recommend Mayor Meyer to appoint Mr. Manges as a hearing officer, and recommend to the Common Council that they amend the Unsafe Building Code to remove the Board of Public Works & Safety members as hearing authority by ordinance. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

A motion was made by Coshow to authorize Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright to sign the legal documents for the Mayor at the closing for the Chronister property (108 W. Monroe St.) on Friday, April 20, 2018. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

The contract with Heartland Restoration Services, Inc. for the final work to close the DNR grant for the Nature Preserve was considered. Coshow made a motion to approve the contract with Heartland Restoration not to exceed \$7,610.00, and to put together funding of \$4,500.00 to pay for the signage costs above the \$5,500.00 raised by Eagle Scout Emerson Brown. Seconded by Karbach, the motion passed. Of the \$7,610.00; \$2,700.00 will be paid from the CEDIT fund, and the remaining cost will be paid from the Parks & Recreation budget, as well as possibly the \$4,500.00 for signage.

Before paving Washington Street, Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager recommended replacing the water main under the railroad tracks. He had received two quotes, Fleming Excavating, Inc. quoted \$23,840.00, and Underground Contractors quoted \$32,500.00. Coshow made a motion to accept the lowest quote. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager asked about the need to seek bids for crack sealing, since Pavement Solutions agreed to charge the same price as last year. Coshow made a motion for Gilbert to keep the cost below \$50,000, and to give Gilbert permission to proceed with the contractor who has the lowest quote. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Meyer shared the deed has been received and filed regarding the home at 413 Winchester Street which was previously owned by the Red Men's Lodge. Coshow made a motion that the City proceed with demolition of the home. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Councilmen Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk joined the remainder of the Board of Works meeting for discussion and information purposes only.

The sound system for the Madison Street Plaza project was then discussed. Mayor Meyer, Melissa Norby, Director of Community Development, and Phil McDonald had met with representatives from Innovative Concepts and worked up what would be needed. The estimated cost was \$21,193.99. Because of the cost estimate, two quotes would be required as per ordinance. It was noted the ordinance requiring quotes for certain projects and costs need to be updated. A motion was made by Karbach to accept the estimate from Innovative Concepts for \$21,193.99, and waive the purchasing ordinance requirement as special and unique circumstances exist, with approval from Council to see if funds are available for this project. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor shared that in the past they had used a three-month average for the summer sewer rates with people watering lawns and filling swimming pools. By consensus, it was decided to continue the averaging process but use a longer period such as September through March to obtain the average cost, and then report back to the board with the results.

Les Marckel, Fire Chief shared that Common Ground Church had made a request of Jeff Sheets to use Safety Village for a Nerf War. It was decided that it would be best for the Safety Village Board to take the request under advisement. Also, Chief Marckel shared that the Decatur Fire Department had received a \$2,270 rebate check from I&M after installing all LED bulbs throughout the building. He shared that there has been about \$100 savings noted each of the past two (2) months since the installations.

City Attorney, Tim Baker shared that Brett Miller had completed the new Water plant survey. Coshow made a motion to approve the survey, and authorize the deed being drafted to transfer the area to the Decatur Waterworks, and authorize the Mayor to sign the annexation into the City. Motion was seconded by Karbach. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright shared she is getting ready for the budget preparation, and requested for the Mayor and Council to think about the amount to budget for raises for City employees for 2019.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Coshow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:15 P.M.