

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
May 16, 2017

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. Members present were Cam Collier, 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 May 2, 2017 meeting. There were no corrections. Karbach made a motion to approve the minutes. Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In order for the Police Chief and Fire Chief to prepare the LOIT Public Safety budget for 2018, a motion was made by Collier to keep \$100,000 in reserve in the LOIT Public Safety fund and divide the remaining distribution between the police and fire department's needs. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Melissa Norby, Director of Community Development presented a contract for \$5,000 as a result of a grant received from OCRA to make the alley between Woodwings and The Home Place a pedestrian alley. The City's in-kind match of the grant would be that the City owns the alley. She noted local artist, Alex Mendez would do some artwork for the area. Norby remarked the project is to be completed by November of this year, and should receive the funding within 45 days from the date the contract is submitted. A motion to approve the contract and authorize Norby to sign said contract electronically was made by Collier. Seconded by Karbach, the motion passed.

Mayor Meyer shared he had talked with Adam Eguia regarding the July 4th Fireworks. Due to work on Highway 224, and not being sure what phase they will be working on at the July 4, 2017 date, a discussion centered around possible solutions for road closings, parking, and staging of the pre-fireworks display. Phase 2 will close the entrance to Stratton with Jackson Street being the only way to cross the river. Phase 3 will close Jackson Street. Mayor Meyer proposed setting a meeting with the Police Chief, Greg Cook and Eguia to come up with a plan.

Councilmen Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Wylie Sirk joined the Board of Works meeting for discussion purposes only.

City Attorney shared that there was a concern of people leaving the Decatur Daily Democrat parking lot directly onto Second Street rather than using the exit along Jefferson Street. Mayor Meyer noted he would talk with Jesse Lindsey of the Democrat.

Bill Karbach, Code Enforcement Officer, shared pictures of numerous homes in various states of disrepair. Karbach asked for input on how to handle the situation. He noted in the past he had worked with trash, yards that needed work, and dilapidated garages. Currently he has several homes that are eyesores in various neighborhoods. Discussion centered on various issues such as those who can't afford to make improvements versus those who simply don't care. Questions centered on the availability of funds to help anyone needing help, have complaints been filed, and are the conditions endangering public safety. One suggestion was to draft a letter asking the residents what they plan to do regarding any upgrades. After an in-depth discussion, it was concluded that Mayor Meyer and City Attorney, Tim Baker would check with other cities to see how they handle the problem. In the meantime Karbach will continue with the project, especially with abandoned homes.

City Attorney, Tim Baker shared that the County has requested for a salary increase for the GIS Specialist, who is being shared between the city and the county. The inter-local agreement reads for the City to reimburse the County 50% of the GIS Specialist salary, benefits and software cost. The additional funds are adequate in the current budget. A motion was made by Karbach that the Board of Public Works and Safety approve the increase being requested. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted. The County will need to notify the City when this pay increase begins.

There being no other business to bring before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Collier, seconded by Karbach, and passed.

Adjournment was at 7: 23 P.M.