

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 17, 2022

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6:45 p.m. at Riverside Center, 231 E. Monroe Street, Decatur. 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 Anne Razo.

The location of the meeting was moved from City Hall to Riverside Center due to the expectation of a large crowd to attend this meeting. A notice was posted and the media had been notified at least 48 hours before the meeting. There were also rules placed at the entrance of how the meeting would be conducted and a sign-in sheet for any public comments.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the May 3, 2022 meeting. Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord shared that he had been approached by a Rotarian requesting permission to install a Rotary Club sign along with the “Welcome to Decatur” signs at each direction entering into the City. Dyer made a motion to allow the Rotary Club sign installation. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was a request from Mark Graves, owner of Soul Pig BBQ at 135 S. 2nd Street, for use of the alley next to his restaurant for outdoor dining and entertainment. The plan is to have seating for 30-40 diners using 3 or 4 picnic tables. It was shared that barricades have been purchased and the area would include the seating area and a walkway. Soul Pig BBQ would provide the lighting, and the outdoor dining would likely be held from May through October but starting in June of this year. It was discussed that a Memorandum of Understanding be prepared between the City and Soul Pig BBQ similar to the MOU that Famous Monster Pizza has with the City for the alley next to their restaurant. Soul Pig BBQ would be responsible for general maintenance and cleanup of the alley, and no permanent fencing and gating would be permitted. The City would need to be added as an additional insurer on Soul Pig BBQ insurance policy. After discussion, Coshow made a motion to dedicate the alley next to Soul Pig BBQ as a pedestrian alley, and direct the City Attorney to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding to use the alley as requested and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Action was then taken regarding two events. The first event form was from Chris Johnson from The Wet Spot for their yearly event to honor the members of the Armed Forces. The request was to close the alley behind The Wet Spot at 254 N 2nd Street from Jackson Street to half the block before Monroe Street on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Setup time will begin at noon, with the event to begin at 2 to 10 p.m. Dyer made a motion to approve the alley closure for the Armed Forces Day benefit event. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The second event is a graduation party requesting to close Community Pass in Stratton Addition at 403 Limberlost Trail on Friday, June 17, 2022 beginning at 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. The request is from Jason Ellsworth. The closure is for only a portion of Community Pass to their house where food and tables will be placed. Dyer made a motion to approve closing a portion of Community Pass for the graduation party. Seconded by Fullenkamp. The motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was a discussion regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. It was noted that the Board of Works approved at the May 3, 2022 meeting for the Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert to proceed with 64-gallon cart containers for trash and recycling, and at the April 19, 2022 Council meeting it was discussed to make improvements to the REV Sports Complex in Hanna Nuttman Park to install a safety net, and pave the parking lot. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council to proceed with these projects to be funded with the ARPA funds, a Plan needs to be adopted and an additional appropriation will need to be requested before funds can be expended. The trash and recycling carts are estimated at approximately \$295,150.00 and the netting is estimated at \$150,000.00, and the paving of the parking lot approximately \$300,000.00. If the decision is made to use ARPA funds as proposed, Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright will prepare the required resolutions. Dyer made a motion for the Clerk-Treasurer to prepare the necessary paperwork for the projects discussed by using ARPA funds. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted. Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert noted that with this work at the REV Sports Complex would basically be completed except for the lighting.

Last on the agenda was a presentation by Riggs Florence who is wanting to open I-O Properties as a beef processing industry in the building previously owned by Deans Foods. I-O Properties has purchased the building, but is not currently operating. I-O is now conducting what it calls a “public education plan.” Mr. Florence addressed the Council and those in the audience noting the Council had not allowed the I-O Properties to operate in the City limits as per City Code at the March 15, 2022 meeting. He shared that I-O Properties had closed on the Dean Foods building on April 18, 2022. Florence noted that since the March meeting the company has continued to try to educate the citizens regarding the process to be used at the facility. I-O will be having tours of the location, which is scheduled for May 18, 21, and 24, 2022 and a public meeting is scheduled at Riverside Center for June 15, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. where he has asked City Department Heads to be present to answer questions. Mr. Florence shared some of the rumors that were going around and explained that the processing for hogs is much different from cattle processing. Mr. Florence noted that there will be no cattle outside the building and no blood will be in the culverts. Florence noted he knew there were some problems with Dean Foods of which I-O Properties is working to mitigate.

The only Department Head to speak was Bill Carpenter, Assistant Water Superintendent, who noted it would be nice to get someone in the building, since the City has lost revenue from the building not being used.

There were no comments made by Council Members.

Speakers from the public included Norma Landis Geyer, Jason Brune, Kim McDonald, Charlie Brune, Scott Porter, Collin Selking, Kathleen Kozlowski, Jean Brune, Pat Poole, Greg Gage, Susan Baumann, Darlene Zeitvogel, and Tim Ehlerding. Fort Wayne Attorney, Brien Clifford, representing the Porter Family also spoke. All who spoke were against having I-O Properties operate as a cattle processing business in the previous Dean Foods building in Industrial

Park on Commerce Drive. Many noted they had no problem if the business located outside the City limits in the appropriate County location.

Sirk made a motion to pay the claims. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Murray made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:45 P.M.