

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 19, 2020

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:48 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 were 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, Assistant Fire Chief Jim Hitchcock, Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert, Wastewater Superintendent Karey Fuelling, Building and Zoning Superintendent Curt Witte, Civil Infrastructure Manager Don Bergdall, Rob Weaver of WZBD Radio, Bob Shraluka of the Decatur Daily Democrat, Jim Langham of the Berne Witness, Barb Engle, Part-time Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, and Anne Razo.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the May 5, 2020 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Fullenkamp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Event Forms were the first to be considered.

The American Legion Adams Post #43 had filed an event form for the Annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony to be held on Monday, May 25, 2020. Plans include meeting at the Jackson Street Bridge then proceeding to the Peace Monument at the Court House. The event is scheduled from 10:45 A.M. to noon. Street closings requested were East Monroe St. at 10:45 a.m., Jackson St. at the bridge at 10:50 a.m, 2nd Street from Court Street from 10:50-noon. Sirk made a motion to approve the event and the street closings. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The second event form considered concerned moving at least the first three (3) Summer Concerts from the Madison Street Plaza to the Riverside field area. The event would be set up as a drive-in event with people parking and remaining in their cars in order to insure social distancing. It was also noted they are also looking into coordinating with the Belmont High School radio station in order to broadcast the events. Mayor Rickord inquired if plans included options in case of rain the week of the concert and it was noted rain may force the cancellation of a concert. It was noted that the Chamber has been in contact with the Governor's Office to make certain the Governor's Executive Order are followed. Murray made a motion to approve having the Summer Concert Series with the new location as long as the Governor's Executive Order are followed. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Coshow brought up the COVID-19 fundraiser to be Friday evening, May 22, 2020 from 4-8 P.M. at the Riverside Center, and requested closing Jackson Street from US Hwy 224 East to 1st Street, and Front Street from Monroe to Jackson St., and 1st Street from Monroe to Jackson St. The event is to promote the small businesses in Decatur. It was shared that several of the larger businesses and others who felt they were not hurt so much by the COVID-19 had contributed to help the smaller businesses. The drive-thru event will feature a hog roast dinner and the distribution of \$40,000 of

Decatur Dollars, with an attempt to feed 2000 people. There will be 800 packages of \$50 in Decatur Dollars with one package given to each of 800 cars. People are asked not to begin lining up prior to 3:30 P.M. Dyer made a motion to approve the event and the street closings for the COVID-19 fundraiser on May 22, 2020. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright shared that ABCinema had filed their CF-1 form to continue their tax abatement for real estate and personal property. It was shared that they estimated having six (6) full-time employees and now have seven (7) and to have fourteen (14) part-time employees and now have eighteen (18). Whitright noted they were in substantial compliance. Sirk made a motion to accept ABCinema's CF-1 form. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright noted she had some good news to share regarding information received from the State Budget Agency that the City received a supplemental distribution of Local Income Tax totaling \$230,000 which will help the 2021 budget. She also noted that the tax caps came in lower than what was budgeted for 2020 by \$190,000.

Regarding the Cares Act, the Federal Bill providing funds to the States for Governors to reimburse cities for COVID-19 related costs, Decatur could receive up to \$300,000. The City currently has claims of \$7,500 to submit for payment and will likely have more claims in the future. Fullenkamp inquired if funds could be used to reimburse the City for employee salaries paid while they were not working. Mayor Rickord informed him that currently this is not reimbursable, but is being looked into as AIM is working with the Governor's Office.

Sirk thanked Mayor Rickord, and Coshow as Chamber of Commerce Director, for going to the businesses downtown to keep them updated on what is available from the State to help small businesses and help them know how to respond in regards to COVID-19.

Department Heads Input:

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, reported that the Board of Public Works and Safety members had approved the addendum to the Kokosing Contract for Phase II of the Waterworks Improvement Projects to demolish the facility on Winchester Street and build a new water plant facility at a savings over refurbishing the current facility.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, shared that he, Tony Lothridge, and Tim Bauman will be doing the final inspection at the new water plant on 600 north tomorrow.

Jim Hitchcock, Assistant Fire Chief, received word last week that the Baby Box would be arriving soon. He noted the military flags have been placed and with the flooding going on with the current rains he encouraged parents to keep their children out of the water.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, reported that he, City Attorney Tim Baker, Rod Renkenberger of the Maumee River Basin Commission, Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright, and Mayor Rickord have been working regarding the flood mitigation buyouts. Six (6) of the eighteen (18) homes had been demolished, four (4) more have been purchased and will be demolished in the near future.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, informed everyone that no trash or yard waste will be collected on Monday, May 25, 2020 which is Memorial Day. He also noted that heavy trash will be collected the first week in June. Gilbert shared that they will be flushing hydrants the week of June 8-12 and June 15-19. Also there will be an audit for the water department to pinpoint any leaks which the City will then fix. The Audit will be done by Aqualine from June 22 to July 3, 2020.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, noted that the light poles approved for purchase for the Second Street Streetscape Project from Madison Street to Jefferson Street at an earlier Council meeting had been ordered and they are to be shipped on June 15, 2020 which is earlier than expected. He hopes to have bids for the electrical work, bricks, etc in the near future.

Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert shared that bids for road resurfacing as a result of the Community Crossing Matching Grant will be opened at the June 16, 2020 Board of Public Works & Safety meeting.

Mayor Rickord thanked Jeremy Gilbert and his crew for all the work in tearing down the homes in the flood area. The Mayor also reminded the public to try keeping debris from the manholes.

Council Input:

Murray shared he feels there is a need to push the May 22, 2020 Fundraiser to let the people know the businesses in Decatur are stepping up to help each other.

Coshow noted he had looked at the claims and found no problems. Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Prior to adjournment, Sirk noted that the Decatur Main Street and the Chamber were looking for sponsors for the flower pots around the City. Interested persons could call 724-2604.

Fullenkamp inquired if there was a need to pass an ordinance if the Council has an in-person meeting on June 2, 2020 which is prior to the Governor's Executive Order for June 3, 2020. City Attorney Tim Baker shared that if Mayor Rickord wishes to have a regular meeting, he just needs to properly post it. Sirk made a motion to give Mayor Rickord the power to determine if the June 2, 2020 meeting will be via conference call or in-person. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord shared that Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent needs to have BZA and Plan Commission meetings. City Attorney Tim Baker shared that such meetings could be held following the proper notification.

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

Adjournment was at 7:27 P.M.