

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 6, 2017

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Meyer. Roll call was taken to show Councilmen Cam Collier, Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the May 16, 2017 meeting. There being no corrections, Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Sirk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Collier to make the legal notice for a public hearing on June 6, 2017 regarding re-establishment of the CCD tax rate a matter of record. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Dyer made a motion to suspend the Council meeting for a public hearing. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to open the public hearing. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted.

A public hearing was held for any input regarding the re-establishment of the CCD tax rate of five cents (\$.05) per \$100 of assessed valuation. No public comments were made.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Sirk seconded by Coshow, and passed.

A motion to re-open the Council meeting was made by Coshow, seconded by Sirk, and passed.

Council had passed Ordinance No. 2017-5 on its 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Collier to place Ordinance 2017-5, an ordinance to re-establish a CCD rate at the maximum rate of five cents (\$.05) per \$100 of assessed valuation on its third and final reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed. City Attorney Baker read Ordinance 2017-5 by short title only. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-5 on its third and final reading was made by Collier, and seconded by Sirk. Roll call vote showed passage by a 5-0 vote.

Adam Eguia presented an event form for the July 4, 2017 fireworks event. He was recognized for this being his 25<sup>th</sup> year of spearheading the event. He shared the event will honor Phil Wolpert, local businessman who recently passed, and also those in the military. Locations for the fireworks and other events of the evening will be somewhat different this year with construction work being done on Highway 224. The Jackson Street Bridge area will be closed for the fireworks and re-opened as soon as possible following the display.

Resolution 2017-8, a resolution to adopt a Revolving Loan Fund to transfer funds to Biggs, Inc. in order to demolish the former Schafer building, was brought forth. Attached to the Resolution is the Loan Agreement between the City and Kevan Biggs. Collier made a motion to place Resolution 2017-8 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted. City Attorney Baker read Resolution 2017-8 by short title only. A motion to adopt Resolution 2017-8 was made by Collier, seconded by Coshow, and adopted. As a result of Resolution 2017-8, \$275,000 will be placed in the Revolving Loan Fund from the CEDIT funds. A motion was made by Sirk and seconded by Dyer to name Clerk-Treasurer Whitright and Mayor Meyer as authorized signers for the loan. Motion passed.

The City Attorney Baker shared a letter of acknowledgement from Biggs TC Development, LLC to Mayor Meyer in reference to Biggs Housing Opps and the City of Decatur Donation letter to IHEDA on 11/3/2016. The letter confirms that Biggs TC has requested the City's financial commitment to be fulfilled in the form of a \$275,000 loan from the City's Economic Development Revolving Fund to Biggs, Inc. to be used to further the Biggs Housing Opps. Project.

Kevan Biggs gave an update regarding the downtown loft housing project and also the Electric Works (former GE Plant in Fort Wayne) making space for artist. Biggs felt that they would complement each other. The Electric Works Project can hopefully be the center or hub to other areas. Sirk noted he had talked to an IPFW art instructor who shared that housing isn't as important as work space for the artists.

Council on Aging Director, Sharon Tester appeared before the Council seeking financial support. She thanked the Council for its past cooperation and shared an outline of vehicle usage per trip by county residents. She shared that the funding from the Niblick Foundation has been liquidated, and is requesting an increase of \$1,250 over last year for a total of \$15,000 from the 2018 City Budget. A motion was made by Fullenkamp to grant \$15,000 to Council on Aging for 2018. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Meyer reported that since the May 16, 2017 meeting he had checked regarding the City's past sponsorship amount for the Kekionga Festival and found it to be \$250. A motion was made by Collier to increase the amount to \$500 for this year. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted with Coshow abstaining.

Stephanie Orshoski and Rod Penrod from Common Ground Church made a presentation regarding the establishment of a skate park for extreme sports, namely skateboarding. It was shared the church may start with a small area to see how much of a park would be used. It was noted they had appeared before the Park Board and it was suggested they appear before the City Council. Orshoski handed out a packet of information to the Council members. She also noted that she had received surveys from kids attending Northwest and Southeast school in favor of the park. She also shared she has looked into grants with Adams County Community Foundation and Lutheran Ministry. The cost to build a skate park is under \$100,000. They had three (3) request for Council to consider: 1) to reserve the property in front of the compost area on Jackson Street for the skate park, 2) have the City provide a grant writer, 3) partner with the City to use Riverside Center for future events. The Mayor instructed them to continue with their funding sources and for the council members to review the packets they were provided.

Chad Hunter appeared before the Council regarding the re-location of the Thursday Farmer's Market event. Beginning on June 15 the Farmer's Market will be held in the parking lot behind the Chamber of Commerce due to work beginning on the former Schafer building.

Mayor Meyer read a resignation letter from Dan Rickord, Utilities Director who is resigning from his position after 7 ½ years. His last work day will be June 9, 2017. Rickord has agreed to continue helping his replacement, Kevin Hackman to learn the job on an hourly basis as needed. Mayor Meyer then introduced Kevin Hackman who he will be appointed as the new Utilities Auditor, effective June 12<sup>th</sup>. Hackman has worked for the City for 2 years in the sanitation department, but has experience in accounting.

#### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Meyer noted he wished to make some comments about Councilman Cam Collier and recognize him for his service to our country. A PowerPoint presentation was shared showing Collier's various activities and noting he had been promoted to Commander. Collier is to be deployed to Qatar for a year and will be on a leave of absence from the City Council position. Mayor Meyer had asked the Rev. Bob Becker to give a short devotion on behalf of Collier and also his family, his mother, Sandy, his wife, Mary and his eldest son, Barrett were present. The devotion was based on Psalm 121 and a verse from Matthew 28, "I am with you always." Collier thanked all for acknowledging his service. He noted it is more challenging now than when he served actively earlier as he now is married and has a family. As a reserve, he knew he could be called to active duty at any time.

#### Department Heads:

Fire Chief, Les Marckel noted that US flags and military flags have been in place since Armed Forces Day and would continue being in place until Veteran's Day. He asked for help if anyone notices broken sticks or sees flags on the ground. He asked that they be reported to him at the Fire Station or to Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager.

Wastewater Supt., Anne Butcher reported that smoke testing will be done in June. Flyers will be given to the residents who will be affected.

Coshow made a motion to pay the claims against the city. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

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 9:06 P.M.