

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2020

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:02 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. The meeting was called to order by 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.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the June 2, 2020 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was the closing of a portion of Second Street at Bunge, the area between Lewis Street and Central Avenue, from June 22-29, 2020. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared that he has been working with Bunge the past couple of years and Bunge's management is ready to take a proactive approach to the needed railroad repairs. Gilbert noted the railroad company and Bunge are working together to do mill work and an intensive inspection regarding long term maintenance of the tracks. Plans are to make the crossing as smooth as possible this year, then do the long term work in the future. Gilbert noted the City would supply the barricades and he asked for some flexibility in the closing date in case of inclement weather which might delay the work. Sirk made a motion to permit the closing of Second Street from June 22-29, 2020 with flexibility. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. Gilbert noted that Bunge and the railroad company are looking at all areas including Washington, Dayton, and Second Street and plan to do a deeper assessment which would likely become a 5-7 year capital plan.

The next item on the agenda was the yearly report from the Decatur Redevelopment Commission. Appearing before the Council were Commission President Ron Storey and member Tim Ehlerding. Mayor Rickord thanked the representatives of the Commission for helping pay the cost of the asphalt trail at Hanna Nuttman. President Storey gave a brief review of the Action Plan of the Decatur Redevelopment Commission. Ehlerding then shared the 2019-20 history of what the Commission had done including providing \$60,000 for Second Street Streetscape, \$50,000 for a Feasibility Study of 13th Street, \$26,411 for the asphalt path at Hanna Nuttman, and \$40,000 in 2020 for Second Street streetscapes and approximately \$80,000 for 2020 budget appropriations. Ehlerding shared the Commission is awaiting the hard copies of the 13th Street Feasibility Study which will soon be presented to the Decatur Plan Commission and the City Council. Ehlerding noted the Commission had set up the TIF District eight (8) years ago and has 17 years to go. It was shared that as of December 31, 2019 the fund had \$307,563.00 with no outstanding obligations. Ehlerding shared the 2020/21 Preliminary Budget with \$25,000 for North Adams Community School Career Technical Education, \$50,000 for an Industrial Park Study, \$40,000 for Second Street Improvements, \$50,000 for Capital Projects, and \$10,000 for Operations for a total of \$175,000. Ehlerding noted the report included the Estimated Impact of Qualified Distribution for 2019 for the various taxing units including Adams County, City of Decatur, Library, Solid Waste, North Adams Community Schools, and Washington Township.

City Attorney, Tim Baker noted the Decatur Redevelopment Commission was organized in 2008-09 when the City was behind many other cities which is why there is a larger TIF District as they were trying to catch up. The funds going to the Commission are only those gained through any new development. Baker noted that the City has received more back than what it would have gained if there were no TIF District and Redevelopment Commission. President Storey shared the names of

those serving on the Commission and noted they have all served since the inception of the Commission.

The next item on the agenda was Ordinance 2020-8, an ordinance to amend Chapter 72 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, to define occupancy based on the manufacturer's recommendation of occupancy for golf carts on city streets. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-8 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-8 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-8 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held with 5-0 passage. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-8 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and City Attorney Baker read Ordinance 2020-8 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-8 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed 5-0 passage. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2020-8 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-8 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-8 on its third reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and resulted in 5-0 passage.

Resolution 2020-5, a resolution to modify the Employee Handbook dated 1/1/2018 regarding sick leave benefits, medical leave, and use of vehicles. There were no comments, so Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2020-5 by short title only. Seconded by Coshow, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Resolution 2020-5 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-5. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before the Council seeking ratification of creating Board of Directors to handle leagues and promoting the REV Sports Complex in Hanna Nuttman Park as named by the Parks Board. Gilbert shared that Board Members Kelly Ehinger, Dick Stimpson, and Drew Derengowski had looked over the nominations and recommended seven (7) individuals with a mix of experience. Those presented for ratification were Aaron Baker, Aaron Macklin, Chelsea Manley, Josh Combs, John Fuelling, Mike Colclasure, and Ryan Baker. Sirk made a motion to ratify the seven (7) members recommended by the Parks Board. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. Fullenkamp expressed his pleasure in the composition of this board as he felt it needed to contain a mix so all groups were represented.

Mayor Rickord shared that he and Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright had met with John Kintz regarding the employee insurance renewal. Due to claims going up Kintz has negotiated with PHP Insurance to lower the increase down to 6%. The negotiations are continuing and they are putting together some options.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief Lennie Corral shared that Officer Eric Mitchel had graduated from the Academy but had no formal graduation ceremony as a result of COVID-19. Chief Corral noted he plans to bring Officer Mitchel to the next Council meeting. Chief Corral also shared that three (3) new police cars had been picked up last week.

Mayor Rickord announced a local resident had contacted him and wants to meet with the police officers and have prayer as they feel the City has a great police force.

Jim Hitchcock, Assistant Fire Chief reported that the Safe Haven Baby Box is complete.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager mentioned that part of the Hanna Nuttman Project included the purchase of a couple of flag poles. Gilbert noted one pole was up and a second one will be up by Thursday, June 25, 2020 when the local American Legion will hold a special dedication

ceremony at 10 A.M. The ceremony is open to the public. Plaques will be placed on the flag poles recognizing the donors. Also, three (3) of the six (6) fence screens were up with the other three (3) to be placed soon. The screens represent the names of the field sponsors who contributed \$50,000 for each field. The plumbing on the west building still needs to be completed and work on the playground will follow. Gilbert noted that there is a lot of work to do yet and they are receiving many nice compliments. Gilbert thanked the Decatur Redevelopment Commission for helping pay for the asphalt paving of the trail. The streets throughout the area were also updated at the same time they paved the trail.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert reported that heavy trash week had been enormous and thanked the employees for their great work. Councilman Fullenkamp stressed that people need to put such things as clothing in bags and not just place them in piles for the employees having to pick up. Gilbert noted the trash pick-up had increased starting in mid-February and has increased each month through May due to the people being home due to the health emergency. Mayor Rickord thanked the employees for their great job and that he has received numerous calls from people who also wished to thank them.

Fire Chief, Les Marckel noted we are heading into fireworks season and a lot of stores are open. The legal time for using fireworks is from June 29-July 3 from 5 P.M. until two (2) hours after sunset and on July 4 from 10 a.m. to midnight. On July 5, the time is from 5 P.M. to two (2) hours after sunset. He also stressed that people need to confine the fireworks to their own property. Chief Marckel has received the license and the proof of insurance for the City's fireworks event. People were encouraged to be careful and abide by the approved dates and times.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, reminded people that Indiana is under new Building Codes and the lists are available in his office.

Council Input:

Coshow shared that a representative from the First Bank of Berne had approached him seeking input on what he could do to help Decatur. As a result, a sticker stressing "shop local" was made and Coshow has them for distribution.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright asked Council Members to be thinking about the budgets as she is starting to work on them.

City Attorney Tim Baker stated that he was glad to live in this community. It is a good community he feels blessed and proud to be a resident of Decatur. He noted Decatur is blessed with a great Police Department.

Coshow made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Murray, 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 7:55 P.M.