

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2019

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. 2nd 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 was 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 4, 2019 meeting. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Meyer read a letter from Scott Ainsworth of DeVoss, Baker, Ainsworth & Razo on behalf of the Board of Trustees of North Adams Community Schools (NACS), noting they no longer have a need to keep the Southeast Elementary School building. By law the NACS is required to offer the building to the City first before they can take any other action. The City is given 90 days to make a decision. Mayor Meyer shared no action would be taken this evening and Council members were encouraged to consider if they have any ideas regarding the building. Coshow made a motion to make the letter received from Scott Ainsworth on behalf of the North Adams Community Schools a matter of record. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted.

Event forms were next considered. The Decatur Main Street proposed Downtown Decatur Day for Saturday, July 13, 2019 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. They would be using Madison Street Plaza and also asked for the use of the restroom facilities until 4 P.M., and to close 2nd Street from Jefferson to Jackson St. and Madison Street to 3rd St., and Court Street to 3rd St. A motion to approve the Downtown Decatur Day event and street closings was made by Dyer, seconded by Fullenkamp, and adopted.

A second Event form was for the Flat 50 Bike Tour to be sponsored by the Adams County Bicycle Club on Saturday, June 22, 2019. The starting point is at Riverside Center along Jackson Street, requesting to close Jackson Street from the Chamber of Commerce parking lot to the compost entrance. Sirk made a motion to approve the event and the street closing. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

The Mayor announced that Saturday, June 22, 2019 will be a busy day in Decatur and activities included the Common Ground 5K Run and the DeKegger and BBQ event on the Madison Street Plaza.

The ordinance establishing an Arts Commission was considered for input by Council members. Councilman Collier had worked on the proposal using language from various area Art Commissions. The document included three (3) main sections: Commission Membership (suggesting 9 members with 4 year terms), Pubic Arts Programs, and Public Art Non-Reverting Fund. The desire is to give the permanent organizations a seat at the table as well as the Parks and Recreation Department and the Decatur Redevelopment Commission. The Commission would come up with its own by-laws as the Decatur Redevelopment Commission has done. Regarding the Public Arts Fund, Collier suggested the City could provide funds and the Commission could seek private funds or have fundraisers. Collier gave a breakdown of funds would be 40% for projects, 40% for

public art programs, and 20% for administration. Coshow inquired if the commission had to be a 501c organization. Mayor Meyer noted that the North Adams Art Council, the Cultural Connection, and the Sculpture Tour are not being taken away. It is hoped the Commission would enhance them. Sirk suggested a representative of the Decatur Main Street should be a member of the Commission. Melissa Norby, Director of Community Development, inquired regarding who would pay the insurance for the City owned sculptures and would Brielle Adams be paid by the Commission or the City. Phyllis Whitright, Clerk-Treasurer, inquired about the need for bonding. City Attorney, Tim Baker shared that the State law enables for the creation of the Redevelopment Commission but not for an Arts Commission. He also noted that if the Arts Commission receives funds they will likely need to be bonded. After various questions and input was brought forth, Council members were asked to study the proposal and bring their concerns and questions to the July 2, 2019 meeting so the ordinance could be fine tuned and ready for the July 16, 2019 meeting. Collier and/or Mayor Meyer will talk with the entities suggested for the makeup of the Commission to learn if they want to be a part of the Commission, and noted that people need to be informed that a discussion will be held at the July 2, 2019 meeting. Notification would be via the paper, radio and the City website.

Mayor Meyer read an announcement for ground breaking at REV Sports Complex of Hanna Nuttman Park on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 7 P.M. He encouraged community attendance and especially the attendance of all players and coaches for the 50 years of Hanna Nuttman Ball Park. A picture of those players and coaches will be taken. Those attending the event will be given a ticket to be eligible for a random drawing for brick pavers. Mayor Meyer encouraged people to come out to be a part of the old Hanna Nuttman and the new ground breaking,

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared that local businesses had a lot to do with the work at Hanna Nuttman Ball Park over the past 50 years. Al Fleming worked on the original project 50 years ago and now his son Greg Fleming is doing the work. Plans are to have the first pitch thrown in May, 2020.

Melissa Norby, Director of Community Development, announced that the IHEDA \$50,000 matching grant through Patronicity fundraiser for Hanna Nuttman Project will begin tomorrow, June 19, 2019 through mid-August. Checks could be sent to City Hall or donations could be made by credit card online, but that would include a fee. Mayor Meyer challenged the citizens to do as well as they did through Patronicity for Madison Street Plaza.

Department Head Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared that within 2 to 3 weeks the street paving would begin for the Community Crossings Matching Grant.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Superintendent, reported that she has been handing out information to industries about keeping mercury from going to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Don Bergdall, Infrastructure Civil Manager, reported that 10,334 feet of sewer has been cleaned. He noted they are focusing on repairs and the camera is coming in handy and saving the City money.

Les Marckel, Fire Chief, reminded residents that with fireworks stands coming in throughout the City, the City has adopted the State Law regarding the use of fireworks. The ordinance includes the times for use of fireworks from June 29 through July 9 with July 4 being the only extended day regarding time for usage.

Chris Brite, Deputy Chief of Police, announced that the new Police Officer, Andrew Elwell started on the job on Monday, and is anticipating that Eric Mitchel should be starting in a couple of weeks.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, shared that the pre-construction meeting with Kokosing Industrial Inc. for the new water plant was held today and ground breaking will be held at 2 P.M. on July 9, 2019. Hackman also reminded everyone that the first Mayor's Golf Outing will be held on Friday, June 28 and to date includes 28 teams.

Council Input:

Sirk commented that with the Northwest School building being taken over by the City, the City needs to reach out to the Adams County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC). He suggested there needs to be an agreement and that a letter needs to be sent to start this discussion. Mayor Meyer, along with Councilmen Coshow and Sirk will work on a letter to be sent to the ACEDC.

Coshow announced "The Doo" band will be playing on the Madison Street Plaza for a three (3) hour show on Thursday evening, June 20, 2019. In case of rain, the event will be held at the Knights of Columbus with 5 P.M. being the decision time.

Collier shared an article that highlighted things that Decatur is doing, but those cities highlighted in the article are much larger than Decatur.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright announced that bids for the first floor of the Second Street Lofts will be received on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 2:00 at City Hall. Mayor Meyer added that the pre-bid meeting was held last week with three (3) firms being represented.

Sirk 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 Collier, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 8:29 P.M.