

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
JULY 2, 2019

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 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 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 18, 2019 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

First on the agenda was Larry Macklin, Interim Executive Director of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation. Macklin was appearing on behalf of the applicant, REV Recreation Group, Inc. regarding a tax abatement and a Declaratory Resolution. Macklin introduced Doug Hormann from REV Recreation Group, and also John Casey and Patrick Hanlon from Deloitte Group as REV's site selection and project consultants. Macklin shared that the project had taken twists and turns over the last couple of months and he was also working with the State for assistance. REV plans a new building and extensive work on current buildings located at 1031 US Highway 224 East at a cost of \$5.75 million and adding machinery at a cost of \$13.75 million for a total investment of \$19.5 million. Three hundred (300) additional employees will be added over the next 4 years with an average wage of \$20.82 an hour and an increase of \$219,000 in COIT/CEDIT dollars coming into the City. The Economic Revitalization Area being created would have property taxes phased in over ten (10) years. Mayor Meyer shared that the City is not in the practice of going ten (10) years on personal property, but he feels that for this project, ten (10) years is appropriate. Sirk made a motion to introduce Declaratory Resolution 2019-3, a resolution for ten (10) year abatement for the additional building, equipment, and improvements, at REV, by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Declaratory Resolution 2019-3 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Declaratory Resolution 2019-3. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Meyer thanked REV Representatives for their work. Macklin would notify the State of the City's passage of the Declaratory Resolution. As a result of the evening's action, it is necessary to hold a Public Hearing for the granting of the abatement, and the Council's approval of a Confirmatory Resolution. Attorney Baker shared that the Decatur Redevelopment Commission would also need to approve the abatement if Council does, since the property is in the TIF District. Sirk made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 16, 2019. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director along with Brielle Adams, Creative Engagement Center Director presented a name for the Creative Engagement Center to be named "The Hive Creative Co-op" with Hive standing for H-Harness, I-Innovate, V-Visualize, E-Engage. By consensus, the Council approved the name to be "The Hive Creative Co-op".

Police Chief, Lennie Corral appeared before the Council to introduce Officer Andrew Elwell who started on June 17, 2019. Chief Corral described Officer Elwell as the kind of young officer Decatur should be proud to have. Officer Elwell addressed the Council sharing information about

himself and that he was very happy in Decatur and feels he has been well received. He shared he has had great supervisors. Chief Corral informed Council that Eric Mitchel will be sworn in on July 10, 2019 and will start work at the Decatur Police Department on July 15, 2019.

The proposed ordinance for the creation of a Public Art Commission and to establish a non-reverting Public Art Fund was next considered for Council's input. It was noted that at the last Council meeting a Board for the Commission had been proposed to be made up of one (1) representative from each of the various groups--North Adams Arts Council, Cultural Connection, and the Sculpture Tour, the Parks and Recreation Board, and the Decatur Redevelopment Commission with one (1) member appointed by each the Council and the Mayor. At the June 18, 2019 meeting Councilman Sirk proposed the Decatur Main Street be represented on the Board. After discussion it was decided by consensus to add a member from the Decatur Main Street and delete the Mayor's appointment. It was also decided that the members did not have to be residents of Decatur. It was shared that if the Council needs to approve the Commission's budget, then the Council should have input on the Board. It was also noted that it would be appropriate and encouraged for the art groups to make recommendations for the Council appointment. It was also suggested that if any organization no longer exists or fails to make an appointment, then the Council can make an appointment to fill the vacant position. With Council's input, City Attorney, Tim Baker was directed to prepare an ordinance for action at the July 16, 2019 meeting for the creation of the Art Commission and a non-reverting Public Art fund.

#### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Meyer has had several comments from people for uses for the Southeast Elementary School building. Discussed was whether the City could turn over the building to someone else. The City Attorney advised that if the property has a value of more than \$25,000, a non-for-profit would have to go through the bidding process. The Mayor encouraged Council members to think about any uses for the Southeast Elementary School building to be discussed at a future meeting.

The Mayor reported the First Annual Mayor's Golf Outing had been held last Friday, June 28, 2019 with funds received going to the Hanna Nuttman Ball Park Project. He thanked the golf committee members, Kevin Hackman, Luke Ainsworth, Anne Razo, Katie Schumm, and Melissa Norby. Thirty teams had participated with an excess of \$15,000 received. Mayor Meyer than encouraged residents to attend the groundbreaking on July 8, 2019 at 7 P.M. for the REV Sports Complex at Hanna Nuttman Park. He emphasized this is part of Decatur's history and shared that a drone would be used to take pictures of what he hopes will be a large crowd.

#### Department Heads Input:

Les Marckel, Fire Chief reminded people to follow the ordinance regarding the use of fire works and to be careful with their use and to be considerate of neighbors.

Lennie Corral, Chief of Police shared a local business had anonymously contributed \$5,300 to the department to be used for a Watchdog system.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, reminded the group of the groundbreaking for the new water plant, which will be held at 2 P.M. on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at County Rd 600 north.

#### Council Input:

Coshow noted the Bulldogs Band will be performing from 7-9 P.M. on Thursday July 4, 2019 on Madison Street Plaza. The concert will be followed with the American Legion flag presentation and the fireworks behind Riverside Center. Food vendors would be at Madison Street

and at Riverside Center. Mayor Meyer thank Councilmen Coshow and Sirk for their raising of funds to provide the fireworks.

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

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

Adjournment was at 8:36 P.M.