

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 17, 2018

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 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 Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Wylie Sirk, and Craig Coshow were in attendance. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney, Tim Baker. Councilman Scott Murray was absent.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the July 3, 2018 meeting. There being no corrections, Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sirk made a motion to suspend the Council meeting for the purpose of a Public Hearing. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to open the Public Hearing regarding a tax abatement for Hoosier Pattern and RH Warehouse on personal property and real estate for ten years. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed.

Attorney Jeremy Brown appeared on behalf of Hoosier Pattern, Inc. and RH Warehouse LLC regarding a ten year abatement on personal property and real estate. Attorney Brown reminded the council members that not all the items that are being requested for the tax abatement are from this year, which he had previously provided a spreadsheet to show in which years the items were added.

Dyer made a motion to make the publication of the notification of the Public Hearing a matter of record. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to make the proof of filing notice with the taxing units, which Attorney Brown presented a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Keith Gerber of Hoosier Pattern and RH Warehouse along with his Attorney Jeremy Brown explained the process of a 3D printer which would provide for an additional six (6) more employees and approximately \$175,344.00 in salaries. The personal property is estimated at \$2,318,461.00 and the real estate improvements at \$221,235.00

There being no comments from the public on the abatement, Coshow made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to reconvene the Council meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to introduce Confirming Resolution 2018-14, a resolution to provide tax abatement for ten (10) years for personal property and real estate for Hoosier Pattern and RH Warehouse by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Resolution 2018-14 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Confirming Resolution 2018-14. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted. Mayor Meyer announced that Confirming Resolution 2018-14 has been adopted. He congratulated Hoosier Pattern and RH

Warehouse and shared that a Public Hearing would be held with the Redevelopment Commission on August 1, 2018 in regards to the tax abatement since the property is located in the TIF District.

Paul Ryan appeared before the Council regarding a recent issue in the City when the police put a dog down. Mr. Ryan noted both parties share responsibility and thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to speak and present ideas for changes in the City Code. He noted he realized the current code is basically for farm animals. Secondly, he proposed the hiring of a full-time Animal Control Officer (ACO) stating funding could be provided by taking from various budgeted lines. He then suggested funding could come from LOIT funds, Riverboat funds, the General Fund, or increase costs for dog licenses and fines. Mayor Meyer stated he would follow up on the suggestions and talk with Mayor Ted Ellis of Bluffton regarding their ACO program. Sirk complimented Ryan on his presentation noting many people complain and have no suggestions to better the situation. Ryan went on to suggest some simple measures to better equip the Police officers or an ACO such as tasers, tranquilizers, bite sticks, arm guards, and treats to lure a dog into a cage or back of a squad car. Katie Wilson of Lennox Legacy Animal Rescue shared she had personally taken eleven (11) dogs since April from the City and County. She shared she specialized with aggressive dogs and suggested updating the equipment for dogs in the police vehicles and training for officers. Deputy Chief Mahan complimented Mr. Ryan on a good presentation. Also present was Conner Busick who agreed with the hiring of an ACO and suggested the need for a dog park, which could generate some revenue.

Next, Mayor Meyer shared the Board of Public Works and Safety members had passed a motion to recommend that the Council proceed with the purchase of the home at 134 N. First Street for riverfront development. Sirk made a motion to proceed with the purchase agreement for the home at 134 N. First Street and authorize Mayor Meyer to sign the agreement on behalf of the City. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2018-15, an ordinance which amends Chapters 50 through 54 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 regarding the liability for invoiced city services, was next to be considered. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2018-15 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion carried and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2018-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2018-15 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, roll call showed 4-0 passage with Murray being absent. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2018-15 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Coshow, the motion passed and City Attorney Baker read Ordinance 2018-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2018-15 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried and a roll call vote showed passage with at 4-0 vote with Murray being absent. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2018-15 until the next regular meeting on August 7, 2018. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was carried. Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor shared that the forms for landlords were now available on the Decatur website. Also, a portal is available for landlords to check the status of tenants' payment for utilities. Any questions concerning the ordinance or forms should contact the Utilities office at 724-7171.

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director appeared before the Council on behalf of Greg Kitson of Greater Decatur Committee. It was noted that in 2015 the City adopted a Capital Improvement Plan of \$2.5 million to be used over five (5) years, approximately \$500,000 per year. Resolution 2015-7 provided \$2.5 million for community projects of which were part of the original Stellar Community Investment Plan. Norby pointed out that most of the projects have been completed, were in progress, or are scheduled to be done in the near future. Proposed 2019 funds total \$610,142 and includes \$100,000 matching funds for OCRA grant for 2nd Street streetscape

revitalization, \$250,000 for 2019 request for Hanna Nuttman ballpark project, \$30,000 for sound system for Madison Street Plaza and \$230,142 for additional 2019 community development projects. There are \$470,000 funds to be carried over to 2019 from 2018 incomplete projects. These funds include \$200,000 for build out of the first floor of the 2nd Street lofts, \$250,000 request for Hanna Nuttman ballpark project, and \$20,000 marketing campaign. Norby requested to set aside \$610,142 of the remaining funds from 2018, and \$470,000 for 2019, totaling \$1,080,142 to be available in 2019. Dyer made a motion to approve the \$1,080,142 requested to be budgeted in 2019 for capital projects. Fullenkamp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sirk shared that Main Street is working on the 2nd Street streetscape concept which is in the discussion stage at this time.

The idea of a dog park was brought up and Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager shared that the last time that concept was brought up at the Park Board, it was not accepted too well. Norby noted the group needs to do some investigating regarding cost, locations, etc. City Attorney Baker shared they need to check on specifics regarding the concept of a dog park.

City Council Attorney Baker encouraged the Council members to think of possible future projects and to look ahead to the next five (5) years to continue the momentum started the past five (5) years. He encouraged the Council to extend the \$2.5 million for the next five (5) years, starting in 2020.

The sponsorship of the Decatur Highland Games was considered after Coshow who is the Director of the Chamber of Commerce explained the event and the need for sponsors. Dyer made a motion to be a gold sponsor of the event for \$1,000 with the funds coming from the Common Council promotional account. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed with Coshow abstaining.

The next item was a request from the Callithumpian Committee for funding. It was shared that the Committee expenses exceeded \$20,000 the last two years. The Callithumpian Committee asked for \$1,000 to pay toward the fireworks. Last year \$750 was provided from the Council's promotional funds. Fullenkamp made a motion to provide \$1,000 to the Callithumpian Committee from Common Council's promotional account. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted with Coshow abstaining.

Coshow then brought up the Thursday evening concerts and shared a family has asked to fund an additional concert, the Dueling Pianos. The additional concert would be September 27, 2018 from 6-9 P.M. Sirk made a motion to give permission to add to the event form previously submitted for the Dueling Pianos Concert on September 27, 2018. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted with Coshow abstaining.

Mayor Meyer shared that the Board of Public Works and Safety members had passed a motion to recommend to council to get appraisals on the former Decatur Casting site. Council would then need to schedule a Public Hearing to get public input on the possible selling of this property. Coshow made a motion to approve obtaining the appraisals and to schedule a Public Hearing at the August 7 City Council meeting to discuss the possible sale of the property. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted. Mayor Meyer explained the appraisals would be on two separate parcels since a cell tower is located on a portion of the land.

City Attorney, Tim Baker brought up the possible need for an ordinance for handicap parking. Discussion of possible handicap parking locations were requested as a result of the

Madison Street Plaza removing any parking spaces for the businesses along Madison Street. There will be possible spaces in the lot on the site of the former Schafer building, but those will not be available for some time. Handicap spaces along Second Street were seen in somewhat of a negative as Fullenkamp noted he would not want a handicap driver trying to get out along busy Second Street, sharing he doesn't like to get out on Second Street himself. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared there has never been handicap parking specified on Madison Street and spaces had been removed from Second Street a couple of years ago because of safety issues. He suggested specifying a couple of spaces in the First Street Parking Lot. By consensus, it was decided that an ordinance be tabled since the concept needs further investigation.

Attorney Tim Baker shared that Mr. and Mrs. Mike Long, 673 N. Waters Edge, had requested to vacate an easement at the rear of their property. It was noted that developer Steve Kreigh of GKB Enterprises LLC had no objections. A petition had been filed on July 9, 2018 and it was noted a Public Hearing would be needed. Coshow made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on August 7, 2018 regarding the Long's request to vacate an easement. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was carried.

Department Head Input:

Deputy Chief Mahan shared the Police Department is taking application for new police officers.

Bill Carpenter, Asst. Superintendent of the Water Department, shared they are drilling the 4th well at the new water plant site.

Don Bergdall, Civil Infrastructure Manager, shared he wanted to look at the Long's easement before a decision was made.

Anne Butcher, Wastewater Superintendent, noted equipment had been brought in for the Clarifier Project.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, announced the new street sweeper has arrived.

Council Input:

Sirk referenced the article in the Sunday Journal Gazette that noted Adams County was one of five counties in the state in which the median age had lowered.

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, Fullenkamp made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 9:17 P.M.