

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 21, 2020

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:55 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 7, 2020 meeting. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on July 14, 2020. Seconded by Murray, the minutes were adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion regarding the mural on the west side of the Next Page building. Mayor Rickord had been approached by the owner of the building who wants to sell their building, but was inquiring to see if the City wanted to keep the mural since the mural was painted in 1986 for the City's 150-year celebration. The owner is wanting to paint the entire side of the building white. It was noted the City does not own the building and perhaps the owner should be allowed to paint over the mural. It was suggested that maybe the Decatur Main Street Design Committee, or North Adams Arts Council or the Historical Society would like to pursue something with the owner. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager shared that Brecht Painting had painted the mural in 1986 and the fact that it has lasted this long with no touch ups is rather impressive. The Mayor will contact other organizations to see if they are interested in preserving the mural and talk with the owner again.

Trenton Schinnerer was present to discuss the facilities needed for the adult and co-ed softball leagues of which he is the president. He shared that in 2018 over 600 games had been played before they left the Hanna Nuttman facility. In the spring of 2019 only 250 games were played. This year they have been playing at the Bunge North America and Kekionga Park diamonds with no lighting. Bunge does not want to light the ball diamond because of the proximity of homes in the area and Kekionga is in the flood plain and State regulations make updating there prohibitive. Also, the City does not want to light areas at Northwest School or Homestead because of the residents. Schinnerer shared that the league had a commitment from the City that they would have equal and possibly better accommodations and they feel they have not received that and haven't been given any timelines. The league has been working with Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager to try to come up with options. Schinnerer inquired if funds for Hanna Nuttman were available to refund the league as it had purchased the original lights. Schinnerer shared that individuals travel from as far as Michigan to play ball, but with facilities not having lights it is difficult to get as many teams to play with the needed 6 P.M. start time. It was noted that there were 38 teams in 2018 with 300-400 people coming into the City including team members, spouses, and children. Schinnerer fears the end of the men's league as they can not get teams to play with the 6 P.M. start time. Mayor Rickord has looked at several areas in the City, but has not found one that is satisfactory yet. Mayor Rickord asked the Council Members to think about any possibilities. Schinnerer commented that if a location could be found for two (2) fields, the league would have money to fund the second field. Schinnerer requested an area of about five (5) acres would be sufficient for two (2) fields and parking, and would need lighting and fencing.

Several locations were considered, but no decisions were made. Councilman Sirk made a motion to continue the discussion at the next meeting on August 4th. Seconded by Coshow. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of a resolution to purchase real estate. It was shared the land options had been discussed during an Executive Session on July 14, 2020 when no official action could be taken. The land is located at the north end of Homestead addition and could be used as a detention pond to get excess water out of the addition. The first step is to express interest in purchasing the land and it was noted that the Board of Public Works and Safety had named Mayor Rickord as the Purchasing Agent. The area of interest includes four (4) parcels of 1.3 acres, .53 acres, .93 acres, and 3.42 acres. Resolution 2020-6, a resolution to express interest in purchasing real estate was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2020-6 by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Resolution 2020-6 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-6. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The next item considered was that of the need for signage for events of 250 or more participants. The Governor has signed an Executive Order mandating the filing of a plan to the County Health Board for events of 250 or more. Thus, the Decatur Chamber of Commerce is filing such a plan for the Thursday night concerts. Those attending the concerts must comply with the plan or the events could be shut down. The Chamber is trying to comply and it is not mandated by the City or the Board of Health, but the Board of Health is only doing as directed by the State. Since the Governor has signed the Executive Order to keep Indiana at the 4.5 level, the plan is necessary for any groups of 250 or more. It was noted that the Chamber is doing all it can and citizens are reminded to follow the CDC guidelines--social distancing, hand sanitizer, and masks. Extra space for the concerts will be available to accommodate the social distancing.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent had requested at the previous meeting to amend the City Code due to State Building Code changes regarding backwash for pools, submission of plans for electrical components for pools, and building materials to be used as laid out in the Indiana Building Code. The City Attorney prepared Ordinance 2020-11, which amends various Chapters of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 regarding submission of plans and specifications for and permitting of swimming pools, regarding material standards and regarding the discharge of swimming pool drainage. There were no comments received from the public, so Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-11 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-11 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-11 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage of 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-11 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-11 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-11 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage by a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2020-11 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-11 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-11 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passage was noted by a 5-0 vote.

The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright presented a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement completed by Donald Bergdall and Marty Martin who are employees of the City who have started a new business called Backroad Excavating. Sirk made a motion to make the Conflict of Interest Disclosure form filed by Donald Bergdall and Marty Martin a matter of record. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

The Board of Public Works & Safety members approved a quote at their meeting for brick work to be done at the fire station, but will need Council's approval for funding the project. Dyer made a motion to allow transferring within the capital outlays category of the LOIT-Public Safety fund for funding this project. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief Lennie Corral announced that Officer Colyn Torson was sworn in yesterday with today being his first day on the job. It is hoped Officer Torson can get into the Academy in the fall. Chief Corral shared that Officer Bosler is going to the Academy soon.

Jim Hitchcock, Assistant Fire Chief, reported that the blessing ceremony for the Safe Haven Baby Box was a nice ceremony and was well attended.

Council Input:

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 Murray, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 8:03 P.M.