

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 6, 2019

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, August 6, 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, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Councilman Craig Coshow was absent. 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 July 16, 2019 meeting. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright informed the Council members that the guaranteed minimum interest rate change with Nationwide 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for employees had provided two (2) options for the fixed account. Option 1, the rate is reduced over a 5 year period, Option 2 was similar to Option 1 but provides for the employees to transfer money to another fund if desired. Dyer made a motion to go with Option 2 for the employees. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. The Clerk-Treasurer also mentioned with this change, a contract amendment with Nationwide Fixed Account will need to be approved and signed prior to Sept 30, 2019. The Clerk-Treasurer will email a copy to the City Attorney, and Councilman Collier for their review for the next council meeting.

Police Chief, Lennie Corral introduced new police officer Eric Mitchel to the Council members. Chief Corral shared he normally introduces new officers to the Council following their completion of the academy, but classes are filled and Officer Mitchel would not go to the academy until next year. In the meantime, Officer Mitchel has passed other needed qualifications and is having the opportunity to learn from several of the officers. Currently he is specifically working with Sgt. Mark Cook and Officer Derek Loshe. Officer Mitchel is also working with other officers and getting experience writing reports, making stops, and so forth. Mitchel graduated from Adams Central and Anderson University. He worked as a Conservation Officer and served in the US Army. Chief Corral commented that Officer Mitchel is always well prepared with equipment. Officer Mitchel was welcomed to the Police Department by the members of the Council.

The Board of Public Works and Safety members had passed a motion to recommend to Council the refinancing of the Sewage Works SRF Loan of 2008. The bonds are scheduled to mature in 10 years and refinancing does not alter that date. The cost of refinancing is around \$110,000, which will be paid from the proceeds of the bonds. The savings is estimated at \$317,000, which is 5.8% of the refunded bonds. Typically, a percentage over 3% is the benchmark for pursuing a refunding. Dyer made a motion to approve of refinancing the Sewage Works bonds. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted. City Attorney, Tim Baker is anticipating the closing on the bonds to be early December.

The Mayor received an event form from Stratton Place Community Association for a Summer Block Party to be held on August 10, 2019. Jennifer Hitchcock was present to represent the Association and it was shared that the event would be held from 4-9 P.M. and permission was sought to close Porta Vista and Sunset Lane. It was estimated 40-50 people would be attending the event. The Mayor authorized waving the certificate of public liability insurance covering the event. The

City Attorney recommended Mrs. Hitchcock to check with her homeowners insurance to make sure this event would be covered. Sirk made a motion to approve the event and the street closing for Stratton Place Community Association. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted.

The Mayor received an event form from the St. Mary's Fall Fest to be held September 14 and 15, 2019. They are requesting to close 5<sup>th</sup> Street from Monroe St. to Madison St. on Sunday, September 15, 2019 from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It was noted that the appropriate Department Heads had signed the form. Dyer made a motion to approve the event and the street closing for the St. Mary's Fall Fest. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

A third event form was for Two Brothers restaurant, but action was deferred since more information was needed.

The fourth event form was from the Belmont High Class of 1999 Reunion for the use of Madison Street Plaza on September 7, 2019 from 6:30 to 10:30 P.M. Christy Baker had signed the form on behalf of the class and the group asked for use of electricity and restrooms. It was noted the old form had been used so the group will be contacted regarding use of the sound system. The alcohol guidelines will be followed. A certificate of insurance was provided to cover the event. Dyer made a motion to approve the event on the Madison Street Plaza. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

The Chamber of Commerce made a request for funding from the City for the Kekionga Festival to be held August 14-17, 2019. Friday, August 16, is Education Day and Saturday, August 17 will feature shows, games and various activities. It was noted the Festival has a budget of nearly \$8,000. Mayor Meyer noted that the City had not contributed to the Kekionga Festival since 2016, which the City donated \$250 for a Bronze Sponsorship. Since the City has not funded the event for the past two (2) years it was decided to sponsor at the Silver level of \$500. Dyer made a motion to use Common Council's Promotional account of \$500 to sponsor the Kekionga Festival for 2019. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright sought permission to transfer \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Rainy Day Fund, per Indiana Code. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2019-5, a resolution to transfer \$500,000 from the City's General Fund to the Rainy Day Fund, by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Resolution 2019-5 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-5. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

The Board of Public Works and Safety members had passed a motion to recommend to Council the approval of a maintenance contract with Building Temperature Solutions, LLC (BTS) for the system at Northwest Elementary School at a cost of \$6,350 per year. Dyer made a motion to approve the maintenance contract with BTS for the Northwest School building to be paid from the Common Council repairs and maintenance account. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted. Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert informed Council members that North Adams had removed the computer for operations of the system to separate the system from their current system.

The Board of Public Works and Safety members had passed a motion to recommend to Council a maintenance contract with Innovative Concepts for the security and recording system at City Hall for a cost of \$2,500 for two (2) years, which could be paid at a rate of \$1,250 per year. Dyer made a motion to approve the 2-year contract with Innovative Concepts for \$2,500 for security

cameras and recordings to be paid from Common Council repairs and maintenance account. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright distributed copies of the proposed budget for 2020 for Council member to review. Each department had made its proposal and Whitright noted the first page was a summary of the proposed budget with the comparison of 2020 to 2019. The General Fund total is \$5,453,212 for 2020 compared to \$5,158,857 for 2019. The total for the MVH-Street, Parks & Recreation, Fire Pension, Police Pension, and CCD totaled \$3,634,192 for 2020 compared to a total of \$3,381,266 for 2019. The proposal for LOIT-Public Safety, Local Road & Street, Local Law Enforcement Continued Education, Riverboat Revenue Sharing, Rainy Day, CCI and Redevelopment Commission totaled \$1,421,272 compared to \$1,266,377 for 2019. The Total without tax caps is at \$10,508,676 for 2020 compared to \$9,806,500 for 2019. It was stressed the packet was a proposed budget with comparisons of this year and next year. It was noted Council members will go over each department's budget at the August 20, 2019 meeting.

The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright requested clarity on how to budget the Public Art Director for 2020. Council directed Whitright to budget wages from the Mayor's budget, and the FICA/Medicare and utilities for "the Hive" building to be paid from the Common Council's budget, and \$10,000 be transferred into the new Public Art Fund to get the Public Art Commission up and running.

#### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Meyer shared that he and City Attorney, Tim Baker and MRBC Director, Rod Renkenberger had been working with Indiana Department of Homeland Security personnel regarding the receiving of our State and Local Agreement for the buyout of homes in the flood plain. They had been told earlier the City should receive the agreement in early July. Mayor Meyer had contacted Homeland Security personnel and told them the appraisals had been completed and people were asking for information and updates of the process. Personnel from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security said they had signed off and paperwork was in the attorney's hands. The City was informed the agreement should be received by the first of next week.

Mayor Meyer reported that he had been riding around with Civil Infrastructure Manager, Don Bergdall and Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert the past couple of weeks and he complimented the City employees for all the work they are doing.

#### Department Heads Input:

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director, shared that the Patronicity fund raising has reached over \$58,000 with ten (10) days remaining for the project. People are still coming to City Hall to purchase pavers. Mayor Meyer suggested the deadline to purchase pavers may be extended.

Chief of Police, Lennie Corral shared that the Police Department is working on a public service announcement for use for school bus safety. Chief Corral, Sgt.. Mark Cook, and Mayor Meyer had met with North Adams Superintendent, Brent Lehman to plan for people watching at various locations, and then plan for long term needs to ensure the safety of the students going to and from school each day.

Regarding the school safety issue, Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared that Ogg Street would be widened and paved to allow for a pedestrian walkway. It was noted that with Ogg

Street being in the flood plain, sidewalks cannot be constructed there. Gilbert shared the paving of the streets throughout the City would likely begin in six (6) weeks.

Gilbert reported that he had met with Bunge regarding the repair of the railroad tracks. The single railway will be closed on Second Street from 8 A.M. Wednesday, August 7, 2019 through Friday, August 9 for repair. Budget restraints will detain work on the multiple tracks for the next few years. Gilbert noted Bunge is committed to fixing the track properly. In the meantime some patch work will be done.

Gilbert gave an update on the work at Hanna Nuttman, which is progressing very well. He noted that if rain holds off, dirt will be moved by the end of this week. He encouraged the use of the west entrance for those wanting to check out the progress of the work. Gilbert noted that within the next two (2) weeks they will need to look at proposals.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, noted the new water plant is coming along well and water mains are going in along High Street.

Bill Karbach, Code Enforcement Officer, shared he and the Police Department have noticed several vehicles parked along the streets with flat tires. Thus, he will consider them inoperable and tag them. It was noted the vehicles need to be moved from time to time so the street sweeper can be used to properly clean the streets.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright informed Council that in the 2020 budget packet is a copy of the current CEDIT ordinance. Council will need to review to adopt a new ordinance for a two year plan for 2020 and 2021.

#### Council Input:

Sirk shared that Cook and Belle will be performing on Madison Street Plaza on Thursday, August 8, 2019. He also mentioned how pleased he was with the workers and contractor on Second Street Streetscapes, with minor closing of one side of the street from time to time.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, added that likely Monday or Tuesday of next week the concrete work will begin on the east side of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street for the streetscapes. Once the work is completed past Eichhorn Jewelry, work would begin with placing the pavers. The light poles will be installed, but not powered for a while.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Collier 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 8:30 P.M.