

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 17, 2021

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 7:15 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 August 3, 2021 meeting. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Ordinance 2021-10, an ordinance which amends Section 150.357 (A) of Chapter 150 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 regarding residential and commercial building permit fees as discussed at the August 3rd meeting. Sirk made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2021-10 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-10 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-10 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage by a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-10 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-10 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-10 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2021-10 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Coshow, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-10 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-10 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 vote.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent appeared before the Council seeking advise. Witte has received a complaint regarding a field located in the City which was overgrown with weeds, which is farm ground that has been left idle. City Ordinance states that weeds are not to be more than 6 inches high, and the ordinance doesn't address farm ground. It was mentioned that if the farmer is in a government set-aside program he may not be allowed to mow the area until a certain date. City Attorney Tim Baker suggested Witte meet with the farmer to check the status and learn the length of any program he might be in. Witte informed the Council that there are also vacant lots through the Patterson Street Industrial Park and behind some businesses that have tall weeds and he is working with some of them. The farmland is zoned commercial and therefore agriculture is not a use of the land. If the land is not in a set-aside program and just was not farmed, the owner needs to mow the weeds. By consensus, Witte is to contact the farmer to provide more information before enforcing anything and report back to the Board, and to file nuisance violations for the other properties.

Police Chief Lennie Corral appeared before the Council and noted he had forwarded various ordinances from other communities that he had received regarding UTV's for Council members to review. It was noted that State law requires anyone under the age of 18 must wear a helmet while riding in a UTV. When Fullenkamp inquired if there had been any problems with the golf carts, Chief Corral shared that there haven't been any major accidents, generally a good program. It was shared that the communities with UTV ordinances had reported they had very few problems. Chief Corral reported that he has heard very little negative but a lot of positive input from the public for UTV's.

Chief Corral recommended moving slowly to make sure we prepare the ordinance correctly; his main concern is safety. Councilman Murray commented that after reviewing other communities' ordinances, he recommended Connersville's ordinance was written very well. Council members are to send recommendations to Chief Corral so he can prepare a draft for Council to make a final approval at a future meeting.

Mayor Rickord had received a request from Coni Mayer, Executive Director of the Adams County Community Foundation (ACCF) requesting to relocate the State of Indiana sculpture, titled Reflections from the Famous Monster Pizza building located in the pedestrian alley that runs between N. 2nd and 1st Street. In May 2017, the City was awarded an OCRA grant for a sculpture to be created in the pedestrian alley between (at that time) The Home Place and Wood Wings. Ownership has changed when the sculpture was placed on the building, and the new owner wants the sculpture removed since he has renovated the building and has plans to paint a mural on the building and to have outdoor dining. The ACCF Board of Directors is requesting to have the sculpture relocated to the ACCF on the south wall that faces Madison Street Plaza to recognize the ACCF 30-year anniversary. The sculpture will still be located on the same street only one block south. ACCF has agreed to provide financial obligation to relocate the sculpture. ACCF also is requesting to modify the tree on the sculpture to the ACCF logo, and add a plaque on or near the sculpture to recognize ACCF's 30th anniversary. Dyer made a motion to approve the requests. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord shared that Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator had been helping him set up the Mayor's Youth Council. Plans are to meet with Belmont High School this Thursday. Applications will be accepted until Friday, Sept. 10th for those interested in serving that are in grades 10-12. Mayor Rickord wants to get students involved and plans to have a group together by the end of October, 2021.

The next item on the agenda was the 2022 Budget. All budgets were increased by 3% for raises. Each Department Head appeared before the Council and noted any changes or addition to their budget and explained any increases or decreases in comparison with their 2021 budget. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that she had received a quote for upgrading the network at the Decatur Police Department, which will need to be added to the budget in the amount of \$22,000 in the LOIT-Public Safety budget, and due to the estimated revenues, reduced the budget from \$425,000 to \$250,000 for the CCD fund, and for the CCI fund from \$80,000 to \$50,000. Following the presentations of each Department Head, no other changes were made in the proposed budget. The proposed budget totals \$9,259,402 for funds subject to a tax rate, with an estimated property tax impact of \$397,800, an increase of \$400,342 over the 2021 budget. Other funds which includes LOIT-Public Safety, Local Road and Street, Local Law Enforcement Continuing Education, Riverboat Revenue Sharing, Rainy Day, CCI, CEDIT, Redevelopment Commission and Public Art totals a proposed budget of \$1,718,031.

Following the budget input, Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and the Department Heads were thanked for their work in putting the budget together.

Clerk-Treasurer Whitright shared that the Public Hearing for the 2022 Budget would be Tuesday, September 7, 2021 with the adoption scheduled for September 21, 2021.

Mayor Rickord reported that Rod Renkenberger, Director of the Maumee River Basin Commission is assisting the City in getting the needed permits for the fencing for the Dog Park and the lights for a softball field in Kekionga Park. Also talks have taken place regarding fund raising for these projects.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager shared that the water main breaks have slowed some. The Department and TG Concrete are working on the 2nd Street Streetscapes Project and should be to Jefferson Street in the next 2 to 2½ weeks, trees and bricks will go in later. Gilbert has spent time on Monday checking out the utility patches as Wayne Asphalt will be coming to do patch work next week. Also reported that a few trees were down from the wind storm.

Council Input:

Coshow shared that the schools and the Adams County Community Foundation have shown interest in being part of WPTA, Channel 21's Life's Better Here Program, and the City will participate also. Cost will be shared between each organization. The City's will be paid from the Mayor's promotional account. Coshow announced that there are only two (2) more Thursday Night Concerts on the Madison Street Plaza and that Germanfest will be held there this Saturday.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

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

Adjournment was at 9:00 P.M.