

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2019

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 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 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 August 6, 2019 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Fullenkamp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

An amendment for the Nationwide Fixed Account contract to allow that the minimum rate can be adjusted was brought forward by Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright. Coshow made a motion to approve and authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to sign the amended contract. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was the 2020 proposed budget as distributed at the August 6, 2019 meeting for Council members to study for input and/or questions. Mayor Meyer noted he had very few questions, which had already been answered. Budgets included pay increases. It was shared the Mayor's line item had been increased for hiring of the Public Art Director for the HIVE. Collier questioned the Police budget for clothing allowance and it was shared an increase would be needed if there were any new officers or reserve officers and the maintenance increase is based on having three (3) additional vehicles next year. Also, included cell phones for all the officers to be used for City business only. The Fire and Building and Zoning Department budgets reflected the hiring of an individual to be shared by the two (2) departments. Regarding the decrease for City Hall it was noted the renovation project for the second floor had basically been completed. Looking at the Sanitation budget it was noted there has been no staff added in some time and there are 300 more stops. It was noted the department was basically self-funded and there is a need to replace a garbage truck. Regarding the Common Council budget it included the costs of Northwest School building. Thus, the total of the General Fund portion of the budget totals \$5,453,212 compared to \$5,158,857 for 2019. Regarding the other funds, the MVH-Street budget increase to include improvements to the building to house the equipment from the weather, and to replace two (2) pick-up trucks, and ¼ of the cost of an excavator and trailer to be cost shared with the utilities departments. Regarding the Parks & Recreation budget it was shared an employee had been added in 2019 and after discussion, it was recommended by Mayor Meyer to add \$49,000 in the 2020 budget to pay for a person to oversee Hanna Nuttman Ball Park. Also included in the Parks & Recreation budget was to repair the River Greenway bridge, and to purchase a pickup truck. It was noted the Police and Fire Pension budgets are basically set funds. In the CCD fund \$60,000 was budgeted for Second Street Streetscapes. Thus, until proposed changes are included, the funds that have a tax rate totals \$9,087,404 compared to \$8,540,123 for 2019. Regarding LOIT-Public Safety, Local Road and Street, Local Law Enforcement Continuing Education, Riverboat Revenue Sharing, Rainy Day, CCI, and Redevelopment Commission the total of these budgets is \$1,421,272 compared to \$1,266,377 for 2019. Thus, the total proposed budget without any changes is \$10,508,676 compared to \$9,806,500 for 2019 without tax caps. For the CEDIT budget, Collier mentioned it would send a positive message to the Adams County Economic Development Corporation if the City would appreciate their cooperation in working with the Northwest School building for the City to

increase the percentage of the distribution from 13% to up to 17% in support of the Corporation. Sirk shared that he feels strongly that the City has an emphasis on quality of life and feels there is a need to have an additional person to take care of the parks, and felt it was important to have some amount for the parks capital improvement projects and he suggested \$100,000 each year. Dyer made a motion to approve the proposed budget with the various proposed changes; \$49,000 for an additional employee in the Parks & Recreation budget, CEDIT budget- \$100,000 for Parks Capital Improvements, and increase the percentage from 13% up to 17% for funding the Adams County Economic Development Corporation. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright shared the second part of the budget work which was Budget Form 2-Estimates of Miscellaneous Revenues, which shows revenues to be received other than property taxes for the rest of 2019 and the estimated amount for the year 2020. It was noted a Public Hearing will be held on September 17th for the 2020 budget, with October 1, 2019 meeting for adoption.

Mayor Meyer noted young people in the audience and took up public input before going ahead with the regular Council agenda. Jen Goble and her daughter Lauren approached the Council. Lauren expressed her concern regarding her safety walking to and from school. Noting she felt crossing guards would be helpful. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared that the Community Crossings Grant was awarded to Brooks Construction and improvements along E. Monroe Street and Ogg Street were to have been completed by now, but the weather had delayed that work. He shared the crosswalks on E. Monroe would be replaced and Ogg Street would be widened to provide a pedestrian walkway. Gilbert informed them that two (2) sets of pedestrian crossing solar powered signs had been ordered to be placed at the Middle School entrance on E. Monroe and at Piqua Road. By consensus, Gilbert was directed to order two more signs to be placed at Harvester Lane and Ogg Street. Regarding crossing guards it was noted the schools did not fund those as it is funded locally through the Police Department at other locations and was not part of the budget. Gilbert also mentioned that the lights along E. Monroe Street would be replaced to help for the darker winter mornings.

Council had previously approved at the July 16th meeting to commit funding towards capital projects, but would need to be done by resolution. The City Attorney prepared Resolution 2019-6, a resolution to commit \$2.5 million over the next five (5) years for capital improvement projects, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2019-6 by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Resolution 2019-6 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-6. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Meyer announced that on August 19, 2019 he had received the 69 page State & Local Grant Agreement for the 2017 Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant Program Acquisition Project from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) to purchase and demolish 18 homes in the flood plain. He noted he has not received the agreement for the Evergreen Assisted Living facility yet. Having been in contact with Maumee River Basin Commission (MRBC) Executive Director, Rod Renkenberger, Mayor Meyer shared he was told all of the appraisals need to be received and the possible recipients need to be patient. After the owners are offered a buy out, they have ten (10) days to accept or reject the offer. Once a participant has accepted an Offer to Purchase, Renkenberger submits a request to the IDHS asking for the release of funds to purchase and close on the property, which can take up to approximately 120-150 days. Purchased homes must be demolished within 90 days after closing. Participants are reminded to please keep liability insurance on their home and property until after closing.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, thanked the Council members for their consideration of all the budget items. He, along with Don Bergdall, Civil Infrastructure Manager, gave an update regarding the work at Hanna Nuttman. It was noted they are waiting for completion of the tiling and plans are to stone the parking lots next week when the areas dry out. Also, the irrigation system had been started for two (2) of the diamonds.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright presented an event form for 2 Brothers Bar & Restaurant for a grand opening under new management. The new owners, Kevin & Donna Conrad requested closing 3rd Street from Monroe to the alley on 3rd Street on Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. It was noted all department heads had signed the event form, and the Conrad's have provided proof of insurance. Dyer made a motion to accept the 2 Brothers Bar & Restaurant event with the closing of a portion of 3rd Street. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Coshow shared that Germanfest would be held this weekend and he sought permission for a tent at the corner of Madison Street on the north side of the Court House. Dyer made a motion to permit the tent. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted with Coshow abstaining.

At the August 6, 2019 Board of Public Works & Safety meeting, members recommended to Council to change a yield sign to a stop sign as requested by the residents at Blue Heron Ct. and Grey Goose Blvd. City Attorney, Tim Baker prepared Ordinance 2019-8, which amends Chapter 77 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 to remove the yield sign and replace with a stop sign at Blue Heron Ct. and Grey Goose Blvd. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-8 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted and City Attorney Baker read Ordinance 2019-8 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2019-8 on its first reading. Seconded by Collier, a roll call vote was held with a 5-0 passage. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-8 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Baker read Ordinance 2019-8 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2019-8 on its second reading. Seconded by Collier, a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2019-8 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Baker read Ordinance 2019-8 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-8 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, the roll call vote show a vote of 5-0 for passage. Mayor Meyer announced that Ordinance 2019-8 has been adopted.

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

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

Adjournment was at 9:06 P.M.