

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
October 1, 2019

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. Members present were Craig Coshow, Bill Karbach and Mayor Ken Meyer. Also present were City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the September 17, 2019 meeting. Karbach made a motion to approve the minutes. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Karbach made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 23, 2019 as emailed by Clerk-Treasurer Whitright. Seconded by Mayor Meyer, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Levi Kline of 315 N. 16th Street, Decatur, who had received his second notification regarding rubbish in his yard that needed to be cleared. Mr. Kline felt he had cleaned up the rubbish prior to receiving the second notification so he is asking for assistance in learning what specifically needed to be done. Mayor Meyer noted that things lying in the yard and not being used are trash. Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, told Mr. Kline he would talk with him and specify what needed to be done. Upon recommendation of Witte, consensus was to have Witte give specific directions and give Kline another thirty (30) days to comply.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, shared that a representative of a homeowners association had sent letters to owners of vacant lots stating that City Code requires them to install sidewalks. However, it was noted that City Code does not specify owners of vacant lots to put in sidewalks. City Code specifies that any developer needs to put in sidewalks and drives for any new structures. As per code, the only way to force an owner to put in sidewalks is if they put a new structure of any kind on the lot. Karbach shared that when the subdivision was put into place, and if the developer had put sidewalks into the plan, then the Association could enforce any regulation for sidewalks. Absent any language in the filed covenant, enforcement of sidewalks cannot be demanded. Coshow noted the possibility of using the City's 50/50 cost sharing for sidewalks. City Attorney, Tim Baker recommended the Association Officers could look at the restrictive covenants and see if there is an option to amend them. Mayor Meyer noted that there was no action that the Board of Public Works and Safety could take as they follow City Code regulations.

Police Chief, Lennie Corral distributed coins he had purchased to the Board Members. He shared the commemorative coins would be used for visitors and those who contribute to the Police Department.

Chief Corral also requested permission to sell seven (7) or eight (8) AR rifles to the police officers. He had two (2) quotes and the sale value is \$400 each. Chief Corral noted he plans to purchase three (3) new rifles and keep four (4) of the better ones for reserves to use. It was shared that the officers purchasing the rifles would go to Bluffton to register them. Coshow made a motion to allow Chief Corral to proceed with the sale of the used AR rifles to officers pending any

information found by City Attorney, Tim Baker on selling weapons. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Police Chief, Lennie Corral reported the department had received a grant of \$2,500.00 from Walmart. He noted the department is looking at using the funds to purchase a drone, and Officer Kevin Gerber is talking with the Fort Wayne Police and would have an update of information at the October 15, 2019 Board meeting. Mayor Meyer commented that there are so many positive uses for a drone. The consensus was that there is interest in seeking a drone.

Chief of Police, Lennie Corral shared that two (2) patrolmen, Cory Hamm and Derek Loshe, had been interviewed for the position of Sergeant. Officer Hamm is the K-9 Officer, and Officer Loshe is the Field Training Officer. It was shared that both were well qualified, Chief Corral recommended the promotion for candidate, Officer Derek Loshe, since he has the experience of field training and most of the new officers are on 2nd shift, which would be good to have a department trainer. Karbach made a motion to approve Chief Corral's recommendation of Derek Loshe for the promotion to Sergeant. Seconded by Mayor Meyer, the motion was adopted. The swearing-in will be held at 4 P.M. on Thursday, October 4, 2019 for Officer Derek Loshe who will be promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and Sgt. Kevin Gerber, who had been promoted to the rank of Detective/Lieutenant. Chief Corral announced that the latest hire, Eric Mitchel, would begin his session at the Academy on January 13, 2020.

Councilmen Cam Collier, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Wylie Sirk joined the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting for information and input purposes only.

Mayor Meyer noted that at the September 17, 2019 meeting by Resolution No. 2019-7 that he had been given permission to pursue the possible purchase of a strip of land by the lift station on Monmouth Road. Mayor Meyer had talked with the owner, Gina Wenger of Finish Line Investments, LLC and offered \$500.00 per acre for the 5.38 acres for a total cost of \$2,690. The Mayor presented a purchase agreement that Ms. Wenger had already signed. Karbach made a motion to accept the purchase agreement for the 5.38 acres at a cost of \$2,690.00. Seconded by Coshow the motion was adopted. The City Attorney recommended that this purchase will also need to be approved at the City Council meeting.

Barry Scherer, Director of the Adams County Regional Sewer District (ACRSD), appeared before the Board asking for a Capacity Certification/Allocation Letter to be completed by the City for the ACRSD to resubmit the plan to the State for sanitary sewer extensions at Bobo. The certificate would need to state that the City would pay for the treatment for waste that comes out of that area. He shared approximately 90 homes would be hooked up. Scherer gave numbers regarding gallons per household per day at 156 gallons as the highest level with 113 gallons being the average of the prior eight (8) months. He shared the average for September, 2019 was 119 gallons for a total of 14,000 gallons a day. City Attorney, Tim Baker had concerns that the certification letter referenced the City's review of the agreement and if there is anything being added to the previous agreement that needs to be seen and approved. Scherer informed the Board that the plan is the same as the one used before with perhaps one (1) home being added. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, mentioned that Nate Rumschlag, who was the City's Engineer when the agreement had been put together, had worked with Mr. Scherer regarding the plans and the permits had expired so they are just trying to pick them up again. Coshow made a motion to have Wastewater Supt., Karey Fuelling and Asst. Wastewater Supt., Verlin Butcher review the plans, if there are no issues with the plan, authorized the Mayor to sign the letter on behalf of the City. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Barry Scherer then discussed future plans for the ACRSD would be 43 homes in Barrington Woods and Prestress with approximately 200 jobs. He shared that the City doesn't want to lose 200 employees because there is no sewage plan in effect. Future areas would be 100 homes in Preble, 33 homes in Peterson, 40 homes in Monmouth extended and Magley and the Clem's Lake area, totaling approximately 271 homes. Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Superintendent, mentioned that if Barrington Woods and Prestress are tied into the City there was a concern regarding the age of the tile and the size of the pipe under the railroad at Prestress. City Attorney Baker suggested Barry Scherer, Karey Fuelling, Verlin Butcher, and the engineer to work together to see if these additional homes are feasible for the City to take these areas in.

Mayor Meyer had concerns regarding the use of the Southeast Elementary School building and suggested maybe the County should be approached regarding use of the building before the City communicates to North Adams that they do not want the building. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, mentioned that the Park Board had talked, but are not interested as they can not afford the extra costs. Mayor Meyer noted he would pursue asking the North Adams Board of School Trustees for an extension of time in order to check with other entities such as the County.

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director, appeared before the Board seeking permission to do an income survey. OCRA has available \$500,000 public facility grants which could aid in the use of the Northwest School building. In order to apply for the grant, one (1) of two (2) objectives must be met--blighted building or low income at a level of 51%. The current low income level is at 38-39% and the OCRA representative felt it would be helpful to do a survey. The survey would not ask for specific income but only if the household income is above or below a specific level and no names would be requested, Norby shared she could do the survey rather than pay an outside source at a cost of \$5,000.00. Norby shared that Colton Bickel, Director of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation is also supportive of doing the survey. The survey would include 200-300 homes. Councilman Collier commented that the survey would be helpful if the City pursues a Stellar Grant in the future. Norby noted the grant cycle is April and August, 2020. There is no way to consider the blighted facility qualification of the grant as the Northwest School building is not a blighted structure. It was noted the issue will be presented before the City Council.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Superintendent, appeared before the Board seeking permission to sign the Service or Repair Authorization - 745 Customers without Maintenance Agreements with Kone to repair the main lift at the Swirl Site on Jackson Street. Fuelling attempted to get other quotes, but no other company repairs this type of equipment. Coshow made a motion to allow Karey Fuelling to go ahead with the contract as that is the only vendor available to do the work. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director, shared that the City will be hosting the Build Institute Fort Wayne, powered by SEED for eight (8) weeks beginning on October 8, 2019 in the new second floor conference area. There is an agreement to sign for food and child care and the costs can be invoiced to SEED and will be paid a week later, There is no cost to the City as all invoices will be reimbursed. Karbach made a motion to allow Norby to sign the agreement with Build Institute Fort Wayne, powered by SEED Regional Agreement for the Pilot year. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Karbach made a motion to adjourn. Seconded Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:37 P.M.