

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 1, 2019

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 1, 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, 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 September 17, 2019 meeting. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sirk made a motion to suspend the Council meeting and open a Public Hearing regarding the 2020 Budget. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the 2020 Budget totaled \$11,028,476, which included tax caps of \$408,871, with an estimated tax rate of \$1.45 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The State allowed a 3.5% increase of the levy. The proposed budget was prepared with a 4% increase to achieve the maximum amount. There were no persons in attendance to speak for or against the proposed budget. Thus Fullenkamp made a motion to close the Public Hearing and reopen the Council Meeting. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2019-14, an ordinance for Appropriations and the Tax Rates for the year 2020, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-14 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-14 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2019-14 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-14 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-14 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2019-14 on its second reading. Seconded by Coshow, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2019-14 until the next meeting on October 15, 2019. Seconded by Collier, the motion was carried.

Next on the agenda was the third reading of Ordinance 2019-13, an ordinance for the Refunding of the Sewage Work Revenue Bonds of 2008, was brought forward. There were no comments from the public, so Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-13 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-13 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-13 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Coshow, a roll call vote showed passage by a 5-0 count. Mayor Meyer announced that Ordinance 2019-13 has been adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright shared that after talking with Crowe the City's Financial Advisors for the Refunding of the Sewage Works Revenue Bonds of 2008, she was requesting approval to transfer \$24,395.55 from the Sewage Operating fund for the Refunding of the Sewage Works Revenue Bonds of 2008 so there isn't a penalty for early withdrawal of the Certificate of Deposit invested for the Debt Service Reserve before it matures on November 16, 2019. Once the CD matures the Clerk-Treasurer will transfer the monies back to the Sewage Operating fund. Sirk

made a motion to allow Clerk-Treasurer Whitright to transfer the \$24,395.55. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2019-15, an ordinance providing for the Capital Improvement Plan for 2020 and 2021, was next considered. The Clerk-Treasurer shared that the State requires each city in which the Economic Development Income Tax is imposed to establish a Capital Improvement Plan for a minimum of two (2) years. The estimated amount on hand and to be received is \$1,190,000.00 over the next two years and will be used towards FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, capital improvements for City sidewalk program, park improvements, and economic development projects. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-15 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2019-15 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, the roll call vote was held and resulted with a 5-0 vote for passage. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-15 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Collier, the motion was passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2019-15 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and ended with passage by a 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2019-15 until the next meeting on October 15, 2019. Seconded by Collier, the motion was carried.

Chief of Police, Lennie Corral appeared before the Council with Officers Nathan Hunter and Dan McGill who had graduated from the Academy on September 5, 2019. It was learned that Officer McGill had placed third in fire arms and Officer Hunter had placed seventh out of the approximately 140 in attendance at the Academy. Chief Corral shared that Officer Eric Mitchel will be attending the Academy beginning in January, 2020. It was noted that the staff is back in full force. Officers Hunter and McGill were congratulated and both noted they had learned much at the Academy.

Max Miller, member of the Decatur Main Street Design Committee, appeared before the Council to thank all involved in the work for the Streetscape work on 2nd Street from Monroe to Madison Street. He shared that the Committee had worked with the City and a lot of the ideas presented in the Stellar applications had been used and were now completed. Miller asked for any ideas suggested for projects be shared with the Design Committee for coordination purposes. He also shared they are working on Phase 2 which included 2nd Street from Madison Street to Jefferson Street with the hope of getting to 5-Points by 2022. Mayor Meyer stressed the group continue working with Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager. Collier had heard from groups before, one concerning bikes on the Second Street sidewalks. Talk turned to the planters and Coshow asked that they be returned along Second Street for the remainder of 2019 as there were sponsors with names on the planters and they are responsible for the upkeep of the planters for the rest of the year. Mayor Meyer noted the Design Committee needs to come up with a plan for the use of the planters after 2019.

Max Miller is also involved in the Historical Society and asked for no parking on the east side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street on Friday and Saturday evening through October to help with the travel of the Haunted Wagon Tours. He also announced the Haunted Museum at the Adams County Historical Society Museum will return each Friday and Saturday evening in October. Miller was thanked for all his work in working with the Chamber for an annual contest involving the City's merchants and individuals.

During the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting, the issue of the Southeast Elementary School building was brought up and Mayor Meyer shared he did not know if the City had done

sufficient investigation with all groups to seek any interest in using the building. He suggested asking North Adams Community Schools for an extension of time to respond in order to contact entities such as the County to see if they would be interested in the building. Dyer made a motion to seek an extension of time. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney, Tim Baker gave an update regarding the buyouts for the flood mitigation program. He shared 14 homeowners had been contacted and were offered the buyout. Twelve (12) have accepted, one (1) has rejected the offer, and one (1) is still considering the offer. Three or four owners are yet to be contacted. Mayor Meyer reported that he is still waiting on the Local Grant Agreement for the Evergreen Assisted Living building.

The purchase agreement with Gina Wenger of Finish Line Investments, LLC for \$500.00 per acre for 5.38 acres on Monmouth Road near the lift station for a total cost of \$2,690 was presented. Sirk motion to approve the purchase to be paid from the Sewage Operating fund. Collier, Coshow and Dyer voted in favor, Fullenkamp voted against. The motion was adopted.

Melissa Norby, Development Director is looking at an OCRA grant that is eligible through low to moderate income. The income survey would need to be at 51% to apply. The grant is for interior design and training equipment. The grant is available in 2020. There is no cost to do the survey only Norby's time, and she would recruit volunteers to help make phone calls. Fullenkamp made motion to proceed with the survey at no cost to the City. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

#### Department Heads Input:

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, reported that the water line along East Monroe Street is being installed, and the slab has been poured at the new water plant with the building to be delivered this week.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, announced that October 14 is the ending date for Brooks Construction to be paving throughout the City. Yard waste collection is to end on October 11, 2019 in order for the department to prepare for leaf pickup. And work is continuing on Hanna Nuttman Ball Park as the new grass was mowed for the first time today.

Mayor Meyer shared that the Decatur Redevelopment Commission had hired Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S) for a feasibility study on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. A Public Hearing had been held a month ago with few attendees. BF&S has agreed to meet with the public before the next Steering Committee on October 9, 2019. The meeting will be held at 3 P.M. at Angel's Bakery. Letters have gone out to all businesses and Council Members and the Public were encouraged to attend. The feasibility study emphasis is for pedestrian and bike safety, beautification, and signage.

#### Council Input:

Coshow announced the Highland Games will be held this Saturday from 11 A.M. to approximately 5 P.M. He thanked the City Employees for all their help. Coshow also noted the final concert which had been cancelled last Sunday will be held this Sunday, October 6, 2019. Mayor Meyer mentioned that prior to the beginning of the Concert, the City wants to recognize a plaque that lists the donors to the Madison Street Plaza project. Coshow noted flyers listing the various Callithumpian activities are available at various places. The parade will be on Monday evening, October 28, 2019.

Sirk shared that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Lofts Open House is to be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019.

Mayor Meyer noted that last month the bid for The HIVE had been rejected and he plans to meet with Corey Clark of MKM architecture + design to decide when would be the best time to put the project out for rebids.

Clerk-Treasurer presented an event form for the Decatur Fire Department for an Open House on October 9, 2019 from 4:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. The Department is asking for a portion of 7<sup>th</sup> Street to be closed. Dyer made a motion to approve the event and the street closing for the Decatur Fire Department's Open House. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Citizen Input:

A resident of the Homestead Addition noted she felt it was really dark at night and inquired if more lights could be added. She noted that at least one (1) light was currently out. Mayor Meyer shared there were light problems throughout the City and no additional poles would likely be added, but the City can fix the lights that are out.

Mr. Becker thanked everyone for all they do for the City and its residents before he left the Council Chambers.

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 Collier, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 8:45 P.M.