

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2021

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6:40 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Matt Dyer. Roll call was taken to show Craig Coshow, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Tim Baker. Mayor Dan Rickord was out of town attending the AIM Summit conference.

The Mayor Pro Tem invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the September 21, 2021 meeting. Coshow made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Police Chief Lennie Corral as he brought forth Officers Alex Smith and Gabe Schwaller who recently graduated from the Academy. Chief Corral wanted to introduce the Officers to the Council members. Officer Schwaller shared that he grew up in Monroe and that he was hired on the Decatur Police Force in February. Officer Smith shared he grew up outside of Chicago and that his wife is from Adams County. He noted his Father and Step-father had both been in law enforcement. Both Officers mentioned that their experience at the Academy had been unique, especially with shut-downs due to COVID. Chief Corral informed Council that both Officers are adapting very well and he has not received any complaints about their work. They are also doing a great job with their reports.

The City Attorney informed Council that Ordinance 2021-12, the ordinance which amends Section 33.085 of Chapter 33 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 regarding fees to be charged by the Decatur Police Department for inspections and production of records needs to be revised. The Ordinance had been passed on first two readings the previous meeting. It was learned that the amount being charged for DVD's needs to be revised, and that a fee can't be charged for time spent on prepare the documents. Thus Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2021-12 until the City Attorney can revise the ordinance for a future meeting. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Next was the final reading of Ordinance 2021-13, an ordinance to establish salaries for the elected officials for 2022 with a 3% increase was brought forward. There were no comments received, so Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-13 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-13 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-13 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passed 4-0.

Next was the final reading of Ordinance 2021-14, an ordinance fixing the salaries and wages for City Employees for 2022 with a 3% increase for full-time employees was brought forward. No comments were received, so Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-14 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-14 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-14 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the roll call vote showed passage by a 4-0 vote.

The item regarding Decatur Dollars for Christmas for the employees was tabled from the September 21, 2021 meeting so that the Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright could check when the last increase had been made. It was noted the amount had been raised in 2020. Sirk made a motion to

continue at the same rate as in 2020, \$50 for full-time and \$25 for part-time. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. The Clerk-Treasurer will transfer funds within the Council's budget to pay for the Decatur Dollars from Common Council's promotional account.

The City Attorney prepared Resolution 2021-11, which amends the 2021 Decatur Police Department budget to add Capital Outlays-Machinery & Equipment account 101-204-444 and also authorizes the transfer of funds of \$7,850 within the 2021 Police Department budget from Professional Services account 101-204-431 to the Machinery & Equipment account to purchase needed equipment for the Decatur Police Department. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2021-11 by short title only, seconded by Fullenkamp. Motion carried. The City Attorney then read Resolution 2021-11 by short title. Sirk made a motion to pass Resolution 2021-11, Fullenkamp seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

Next was Resolution 2021-12, a resolution to transfer funds within the Local Law Enforcement Continuing Education (LLECE) Fund was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2021-12 by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was carried. City Attorney Tim Baker read Resolution 2021-12 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-12. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Councilman Coshow shared that the MERIT Board has been meeting with Michelle Lengerich, Director of the Adams Council on Aging regarding the Council on Aging to move from the Adams County Service Complex into the MERIT Center. The Council on Aging would take over administrative services and give the MERIT Center a needed presence inside the building. He added that the Council on Aging would have responsibilities to keep the area clean. Coshow noted he had appeared before the Adams County Council to seek their support for paying the phone and internet at the MERIT Center for the Council on Aging. The MERIT Board is recommending that the Council on Aging be part of the MERIT Center with no rental fee for the first two years. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, noted he felt it would be a great benefit to have someone at the MERIT Center on a daily basis to maintain the building. The Council on Aging would use the commons area and the library for some of their programs. Coshow noted volunteers from REV employees and BHS football team have helped in cleaning up the facility. The City Attorney suggested that a Memorandum of Agreement would be needed. An Open House is being held at the MERIT Center on October 19, 2021 to welcome Dr. Kim Barnett-Johnson, Chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College. There did not seem to be an opposition to work with the Council on Aging for at least a two-year period. Coshow made a motion to move forward and have the City Attorney contact the County and Council on Aging to prepare the memorandum for Council on Aging to serve as the administrators of the MERIT Center for two (2) years. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Final reading of Ordinance 2021-15, an ordinance regarding appropriations and the tax rate for budget year 2022, was brought forward. There were no comments received, so Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-15 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-15 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passed by a 4-0 vote.

Coshow mentioned that Emergency Management Agency (EMA) would like to have a tent to have COVID shots available on Madison Street Plaza the night of the Callithumpian Parade. Murray made a motion to allow EMA to administer shots on the Plaza on Monday, October 25, 2021, and to waive the rental fee for the use of the plaza. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

The building at 136 North Second Street was the next topic of discussion. Chris Faurote, a potential buyer of the building, was present. Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent has been working with Mr. Faurote and noted a decision needs to be made before the condition of the building will continue to deteriorate, especially with the roof leaking and with winter coming. Dyer inquired if the Redevelopment Commission could purchase the building and it was noted certain conditions would need to be met with very specific steps to be taken. Witte noted he is not in favor of tearing down the building as did Coshow. Faurote was asked if he would be willing to purchase the building and do the needed repairs if the City could help in some fashion. Faurote noted there has been some interest expressed regarding using the first floor of the building as a possible Arcade waiting area for Monster Pizza. Witte noted it would be too costly for the City to demolish the building, and was concerned for the safety of the building. Fullenkamp noted he does not want the City to put a lot of money into repairing the building. Witte agreed to contact demolition crews and contractors to get various costs which he will have for the October 19, 2021 meeting. Sirk noted he feels the City has some responsibility as it has been left in such condition for too long. Coshow recommend for Witte to attend the Redevelopment Commission meeting tomorrow night to discuss the situation with the Commission members.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Lennie Corral announce that Officer Blaze Brooks has been selected as the new K-9 Officer. The Porter Foundation has provided funds for the K-9. Chief Corral also noted that Sgt. Luke Rumschlag is attending academy this week to become a field training officer. Sirk encouraged Chief Corral to bring the K-9 to a Council meeting.

Assistant Fire Chief Jim Hitchcock reported there are a lot of extra farming accidents and urged people to be watchful for farm implements traveling from farm to farm.

Fire Captain Jeff Sheets announced that the Decatur Fire Department's Open House planned for tomorrow evening had to be cancelled and asked for the event form originally accepted be postponed for two (2) weeks until Wednesday, October 20, 2021 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The postponement was agreed upon by consensus.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent noted that according to City Code, residents are allowed three (3) small animals within the City limits and for more than three (3), a kennel permit is needed. Witte had given a resident 60 days to abate a situation with seven (7) snakes and 500 rats.

Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert reported that yard waste collection will end on Friday, October 8, 2021 and that leaf collection will begin shortly. He noted that Wayne Asphalt has been fixing utility patches and should complete the work in the next couple of days. Gilbert noted that the Second Street Streetscapes project concrete work will soon be finished, and then the brick laying will begin.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Superintendent noted that people are coming in next week regarding the underground pipes at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Community Coordinator, Jamie Gephart shared that approximately 75 people had attended the Artist's Studio Tour held on October 2, 2021 at The HIVE.

Council Input:

Coshow thanked the City employees for all their help with the Highland Games and all who had helped put the event together including the Hamilton family.

Since Mayor Rickord was attending a conference he had asked the City Attorney Tim Baker to speak on his behalf regarding Don Bergdall and Marty Martin who recently resigned from the City to pursue a new business together. It was noted that Marty Martin has been a long-time dependable worker for the City. He was always ready to work and much of which was hard and dangerous work. Mayor Rickord wished to publically thank Marty Martin for nearly 36 years of service to the City. Don Bergdall has been the Civil Infrastructure Manager for a little over four years and had helped the City in making great strides by using the knowledge he had learned from previous positions. Bergdall has done a great amount of work with cleaning out the sewer lines which will likely cut down significantly on future projects.

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

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

Adjournment was at 7:48 P.M.