

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2020

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00 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 via phone, 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 September 15, 2020 meeting. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion regarding needed repairs at the Pennsy Depot. Sandy Collier shared that in addition to her, other members of the group present were Suzy Fuelling, Sue Robinson, and Kathy Baker. Also a member, but not present, is Cheri Sherry. Collier gave a short history of the Depot work, noting the facility was opened in the fall of 2016. She noted that having raised over \$100,000 for the refurbishing of the building, they want to keep it up. Collier informed Council members that a chunk of limestone had fallen from around the window and they fear additional damage will occur if the area is not repaired. Collier had contacted Limberlost Construction Inc. of Geneva who had done the restoration and they quoted the work at a cost of \$11,135.00, plus an alternate to apply two coats of brick sealer to all masonry for \$2,300.00. Collier noted they had also contacted Atlas Building Services in Wabash as they are a little more involved working with historic building and they had a quote of \$26,831.00. Collier plans to make application for \$10,000 grant money from the Adams County Community Foundation. Fullenkamp made a motion to accept the Limberlost Construction LLC quote and directed those working with the Depot to proceed with the application for a grant from the Adams County Community Foundation and that the City would be responsible for providing any funds not covered by a grant. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted. Collier will get letters of support from Decatur Main Street, the Historical Society, and the Decatur Chamber of Commerce to accompany the grant application.

Sirk made a motion to suspend the Council meeting and open a Public Hearing for public input regarding the 2021 Budget. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted. The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright announced that Budget Form 3-Notice to Taxpayers was submitted to Gateway on Sept. 22, 2020. Whitright also shared that at a previous meeting each department head had talked of needs regarding their budget and she had to make a few adjustments for the raises Council approved, and modify and remove some line items in the MVH-Street budget, due the current cash balance and reduction of revenues coming from MVH Distributions. The total budget for 2021 is \$10,091,560.00, the adopted tax levy is \$4,675,587.00, with the adopted tax rate at 1.3956. The total funds for Riverboat, LLECE, LOIT-Public Safety, and the Redevelopment Commission is \$756,786.00. There was no one in the audience to speak in support or against the 2021 Budget. Fullenkamp made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to re-open the Council Meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2020-15, an ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for the 2021 Budget, on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was

carried and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-15 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, there was a roll call vote with passage by 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-15 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2020-15 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, the roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2020-15 for its third reading until the October 20, 2020 Council meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2020-12, an ordinance to set the 2021 salaries and wages for City Employees, was next considered. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-12 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-12 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-12 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and the ordinance passed with a 5-0 vote.

Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-13, an ordinance to set the 2021 salaries for elected officials, on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-13 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-13 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage by a 5-0 vote.

Ordinance 2020-14, an ordinance to proceed with the annexation of 15.018 acres for the Meadows of Cross Creek Section 3, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2020-14 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2020-14 by short title only. Sirk then made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-14 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was taken and passed by a 4-0 vote with Coshow abstaining. Ordinance 2020-14 was then signed and notarized.

The next item on the agenda was the Callithumpian events. Coshow shared that with COVID-19, and the number of local cases, talks are going on regarding what events can and will take place. He suggested waiting with any street closings and that the Chamber is talking with the Health Department and Mayor Rickord is talking with the hospital personnel. They are looking at things to see what can be done safely. Also on hold right now are the Callithumpian fireworks.

Mayor Rickord had met with Ron Conway of Public Relations Institute regarding a book *Be the Best You Can Be*, which is a compilation of stories to be used with fifth graders. Mayor Rickord had talked with other mayors who had used the book and they were very positive. It was noted the books give the youth a connection with the City and Mayor Rickord suggested he would like Police Chief Lennie Corral to be involved with him as there is a time given for questions following the reading of each story. The cost is \$9.00 per book and it is felt there are approximately 100 fifth graders so the total cost would be estimated at about \$1,000.00 which would be taken from the Mayor's Promotional account. Coshow made a motion to proceed with purchasing the books and using it with the fifth graders. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Regarding the October 20, 2020 meeting, it was shared that several would not be able to attend, but the meeting was the deadline meeting for the 2021 Budget adoption. Thus, because of Governor Holcomb's Executive Order, it is possible to have the meeting virtually for those who could not attend. Councilman Dyer would run the meeting as Mayor Pro-Tem, and Mayor Rickord would send the internet feed to anyone notifying his office of their desire to attend the meeting virtually. The meeting will be posted at least 48 hours before to let the public know that they can attend virtually.

Department Heads Input:

Fire Chief Les Marckel and Police Chief Lennie Corral had decided that their Departments will not participate in Trick or Treat evening this year due to COVID-19. Also, the Trick or Treat event would not be held at Safety Village this year.

Fire Chief Marckel announced that this is National Fire Prevention Week and noted there are videos on their Facebook page and they would have their Open House virtual this year. Marckel also had received the first picture of the new fire truck and noted they will be getting an update each Friday as the truck goes through the production line. Completion will likely be the last week of November.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager reported that street paving work is about halfway completed with this round of the Community Crossings Matching Grant. The City will be make application for the next round of grants with applications due October 23, 2020.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert will be working on the Asset Management Plan regarding replacement of street signs. There are over 300 street signs in the City. In addition to street signs, the Asset Management Plan includes ADA ramps, lights, and so forth. Gilbert hopes to get the City on the list directed by LTAP who offers a lease borrow program on reflective signs which are around \$10,000.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims against the City. 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 Fullenkamp, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 7:48 P.M.