

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 4, 2019

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Monday, November 4, 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 meeting was properly posted and media notified of the meeting date change from Tuesday to Monday.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the October 15, 2019 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Sirk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The first item on the agenda was a group of residents in attendance regarding safety issues for children crossing the streets to attend classes at North Adams Community Schools. Mayor Meyer thanked them for attending and shared that he, Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert, Police Chief Lennie Corral, City Attorney Timothy Baker, and North Adams Superintendent Brent Lehman had met this morning to talk about the safety for the youth walking to school. Parents were concerned and inquired why the work on East Monroe Street Extended had not been done earlier. Mayor Meyer informed them that Brooks Construction had been contracted to do the work and were delayed because of the early rains and had started their work in September while the City had hoped the work would have been completed by that time. Mayor Meyer explained that four (4) solar powered crosswalk signs had been placed along East Monroe Street and a third set had been placed today along Piqua Road. It was noted that wind and rain had delayed the Piqua Road signs until today. Ogg Street has been widened and lined for a walking area, additional signage has been ordered to be placed in the middle of the street. The School Resource Officer, Trent Busse helps patrol the area when available, and Rorick Electric has changed the light fixtures to LED lighting to help with the lighting. The speed of 35 mph on Piqua Road could likely be lowered to 20 or 25 mph, but that takes time. Other options include the addition of rumble strips, but that is not preferred. The last item suggested was the use of crossing guards. It was noted if volunteers would come forward to serve as crossing guards, Chief of Police Lennie Corral suggested that the Police Department would be willing to provide the training. Parent Jen Goble shared she would be willing to do what she could to get crossing guards, but she did not think it should be her responsibility. Officer Busse commented that drivers need to take precautions and parents need to teach their children to be watchful. It was noted that the crossing guards need to be adults and need to be volunteers as the Police Department does not have enough staff, especially if they would get called to emergency situations. City Attorney Tim Baker reported that he had researched and learned there are three ways to control crosswalks: trained individuals, police officers, and students if the school permits. He noted there would be great liability if using students and the Police Department does not have that large of a staff, so the best solution would likely be the trained individuals. Resident Jim Goble inquired about the liability responsibility, and City Attorney Tim Baker shared he thinks the state statute would be there to protect the individuals but he would need to look into it. Training volunteers would not take long, and Officer Busse noted if there are volunteers, he would be willing to train them. Anyone interested in volunteering could contact the Police Department. Regarding the possibility of payment, Robin Everett commented that at Adams Central School, the school pays

\$15 an hour (not confirmed) for crossing guards, one part of the day, and the Town pays for the other. Councilman Collier asked if LOIT funds could be used for funding crossing guard volunteers, and City Attorney Baker remarked that he would look into it. Resident Nick Cornett suggested seven crossing guards would be needed. It was noted that if there are crossing guard volunteers, it would be a job which needed to be done each day school is in session, no matter what the weather. Mrs. Goble shared she felt that if it can be made a paid position people would be more likely to show up and she felt that likely there would be enough parents willing to share the work. Councilman Fullenkamp remarked that the fastest way to get people out there is to get volunteers. Councilman Collier commented that the Police Department is willing to train, but he is not sure they should be responsible for organizing and that he feels the school should be involved. It was also noted that background checks would be needed for each volunteer. The City administration will review what was discussed and have some answers at the next meeting.

Rod Renkenberger, Director of the Maumee River Basin Commission (MRBC) appeared before the Council regarding the 2019 application for a flood acquisition grant. He shared progress has been made regarding the 2017 grant as 14 have accepted the buyout offers, 2 are pending, and 2 are in foreclosure status. While in this process, 4 additional homeowners have shown interest. That would include the 2019 grant application for fiscal 2021 with application due in early 2020. The cost would be \$499,200 with FEMA paying 75% or \$374,400. Local funds needed would be \$124,800 with the MRBC paying \$62,400, \$31,500 in-kind from the City workers, and \$30,900 cash as the City's match. Renkenberger mentioned several letters have been sent to homeowners with four positive responses. New locations would include two homes on Mercer Avenue, one (1) on N. Second Street, and one (1) on Belmont Road. Renkenberger noted that realtors need to be aware that when people purchase a home, the law does not allow for more than 40% property improvements for any home located in the flood plain. Dyer made a motion to move forward with the 2019 flood grant application for four (4) homes. Seconded by Collier, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Meyer announced that the City has received the State and Local Agreement for the Evergreen Assisted Living property on behalf of Adams Memorial Hospital. Funds have not been received, but the letters to release the funds have been signed.

Two event forms were next considered. The first event form was for a Madison Street Plaza event and Dane Fuelling and Sean Faurote from Belmont High School representing the Decatur Wrestling Club were on hand to present the concept. The event would feature a practice for the Belmont wrestlers for the community to witness the practice session of the athletes. The event is tentatively scheduled for Thursday evening, November 14, from 5-7 P.M. The request included the need of extra lighting and bleachers as well as use of the restroom, electricity, and the sound system. The event will be determined by the weather as the mats cannot be unrolled if temperatures are too low. Collier made a motion to approve the "Mat"ness event. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

The second event form was for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting sponsored by Kathee Graves of the Classic Crimper and Louise Ray. The event will be held on Sunday evening, December 1, 2019 with it opening at Storybook Park at 4:30 P.M. and then moving to the Court House Square and Madison Street Plaza and concluding at approximately 7:15 P.M. Melissa Norby, Community Development Director also requested for small decorations to be added to the trees on the plaza during the holiday season, which 3 Rivers Credit Union to be the sponsor. Dyer made a motion to approve the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting event, and the decorating of the trees. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2019-17, an ordinance which amends Chapter 77 Schedule VII of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 for the purpose to establish a maximum speed limit of 35 mph on a portion of Monroe Street from 28<sup>th</sup> Street intersection to west of city limits, was brought forth for third reading action. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-17 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-17 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-17 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 vote. Mayor Meyer announced that Ordinance 2019-17 has been adopted.

Ordinance 2019-19, an ordinance to amend Chapter 151 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 in its entirety regarding Building Code Standards, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-19 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-19 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-19 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and showed passage with a 5-0 vote. Mayor Meyer announced that Ordinance 2019-19 has been adopted.

Ordinance 2019-20, an ordinance which amends Section 150.357 (A) of Chapter 150 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 regarding Commercial Building Permit Fees, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-20 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-20 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-20 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, the roll call vote was held and passed by a 5-0 margin. Mayor Meyer announced that Ordinance 2019-20 has been adopted.

Ordinance 2019-21, an ordinance which deletes Section 150.263 (J) and amends Section 150.264 of Chapter 150 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 regarding Mobile Home Park requirements, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2019-21 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Ordinance 2019-21 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-21 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and the ordinance passed with a 5-0 vote. Mayor Meyer announced that Ordinance 2019-21 has been adopted.

Collier made a motion to purchase Decatur dollars at a total cost of \$2,284 for full-time employees \$30, and \$20 part-time employees, and \$20 for paid on-call firefighter employees to be paid from Council's Promotional account. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to make the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for Bergdall Properties signed by Don Bergdall, Civil Infrastructure Manager a matter of record. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to approve from the 2020 CREDIT fund the \$290,000 for Capital Improvement Projects, and the remaining \$50,000 of Park Improvements to be used towards the Hanna Nuttman Project. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, reported that leaf collection was in full swing. Also noted that the paving of the 18 streets included in the Community Crossing Grant has been paved.

Fire Chief, Les Marckel shared the Safety Park program with the youth had begun today and would be held over the next three (3) weeks. He also noted that fire safety/prevention month is coming up.

Kevin Hackman, Utility Auditor, noted the new water plant is coming along well and asphalt paving would begin soon. He also shared that plans are to work inside the building in the near future.

Police Chief, Lennie Corral shared that there were nine (9) applications received for the police officer position that is open and that the physical agility testing would be held this Saturday, November 9, 2019. He also mentioned that Allen County assisted in firearm training for the department.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, and Fire Chief Les Marckel, and Fire Inspector Tim Bauman have been conducting interviews for the new employee that the departments will be sharing.

Don Bergdall, Civil Infrastructure Manager, noted sewer work will be done on Third Street north of Adams Street and thus the street would be closed for a couple of days.

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director, shared that the classes being held upstairs of City Hall was going well and invited anyone to stop in and view what was going on.

#### Council Input:

Coshow thanked all the employees and Departments who had helped with the various activities held during Callithumpian Week.

Collier 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, Collier made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Sirk, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 8:57 P.M.