

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2020

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Councilmen Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and Attorney Tim Baker.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the November 3, 2020 meeting. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation of PAWS of Adams County by Miranda Mertz and Cathy Hedrick. They gave a little history of the group and noted they are responsible for finding foster care for the lost and found animals, many of which have injuries. They are looking for a building and shared they had contacted Wells County which has a budget of \$144,000 each year from local and state funds. They had talked to the County Commissioners who told them to talk to each municipality in the County. Carol and Charlie Bowers who have operated the county animal shelter for numerous years are resigning from the position at the end of the year. The women had met with Berne's Council and they had questions and showed some interest but wanted to know what Decatur would do. In 2019 the group had an income of \$41,916 and expenses of \$38,783. In 2020 they have an income of \$42,626 and expenses of \$39,863 to-date. Funds are raised via donations only. It was shared that if the County would be willing to give the funds used for Bowers' shelter as well as the Animal Control budget, the amount would be about \$58,000 per year. Council members were sympathetic and would like to help, but the budget for 2021 has already been adopted. A couple of areas regarding possible facilities or locations for the County to build a facility were suggested to Ms. Mertz and Hedrick. City Attorney Tim Baker suggested that maybe the PAWS group could enter into a lease agreement with the County for some facility which would give other municipalities time to place some funds in their 2022 budget. By consensus, the ladies were directed if they receive any further information from the County to email the Mayor and he would share with the Council members.

Ron Storey and Tim Ehlerding of the Decatur Redevelopment Commission appeared before the Council requesting for the Commission's 13th Street Feasibility Study done by Butler, Fairman & Seufert be included as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Other Commission members present were, Max Miller and Jeremy Friedt. The presentation began with a few words from Storey, the president of the Decatur Redevelopment Commission. Ehlerding then informed Council that the Commission had hired the firm of Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S) to do a feasibility study of 13th Street, stressing the improvement of pedestrian and vehicular safety, connectivity to downtown, and increasing the attractiveness of the area. It was noted the study fits into the City's Comprehensive Plan at various levels, especially regarding the concern with economic growth. Ehlerding shared that there had been a lot of public involvement with several meetings which included the stakeholders. The Mayor reported that a meeting has already taken place with INDOT which they are willing to work with the plan as INDOT will be doing preventative work along 13th Street in the next couple of years. Having a plan in place will allow INDOT to act according to the plan rather than doing something which would need to be re-worked later when the City does work on such things as ADA ramps and curbing. INDOT has already agreed to reimburse the City a percentage for work on signalization at

Bollman and 13th Street. It was noted by Ehlerding that Bollman Street is the top priority intersection with many crossing at that area as a result of the apartments at that location and people trying to cross to get to the shopping plaza. The Washington Street intersection is second priority, with the improvements being done at Hanna Nuttman. The Redevelopment Commission had met earlier this evening with the Decatur Plan Commission who has approved and recommends to Council the study as an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Redevelopment Commission plans to spend approximately \$140,000 for preliminary engineering and signalization at Bollman Street and Winchester Street if the Feasibility Study is amended into the Comprehensive Plan.

Resolution 2020-9, a resolution which approves and adopts an amendment to the City's 2010 Comprehensive Plan to include the 13th Street Feasibility Study done by Butler, Fairman & Seufert was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2020-9 by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted and City Attorney Tim Baker read Resolution 2020-9 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-9. Seconded by Dyer, a vote was held and Resolution 2020-9 was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to make the Certification of Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan from the Decatur Plan Commission recommending the 13th Street Feasibility Study into the City's Comprehensive Plan a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment of Jeremy Friedt to the Decatur Redevelopment Commission a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. Jeremy Friedt was appointed by the Mayor to fill the vacancy of Rex Hinsky.

The Clerk-Treasurer announced that she had received reimbursement from the Indiana Finance Authority for the payroll costs for public health and safety totaling \$258,673.63, and has receipted the money into the COVID-IFA CARES Relief fund. Per State Board of Accounts guidelines in order to transfer the CARES Act funds to the City's General fund would need to be approved by Council by Resolution. Resolution 2020-10, a resolution to provide reimbursement for public health and safety payroll costs with CARES Act funding, was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2020-10 by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted and City Attorney Tim Baker read Resolution 2020-10 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-10. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

The Clerk-Treasurer explained now that Council has approved the reimbursement from the CARES Act fund to be transferred into the City's General fund, there are still COVID expenses pending. Per State Board of Accounts, Council can approve other expenses as long as the normal appropriation procedures are followed. If there are other appropriated funds available, the expenses can be paid from those accounts or would need to follow the additional appropriation process. The Clerk-Treasurer requested permission to pay for upgrading the network system at Riverside Center to be paid from the Cumulative Capital Improvement (CCI) fund, which has appropriations to pay for this project. Sirk made a motion to approve the use of CCI funds to upgrade the network system at Riverside Center. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. The Clerk-Treasurer also requested permission to move forward on another pending project to purchase and install WebEx equipment and software at Riverside Center to have larger gathering for meetings and still provide social distancing. The estimated cost is \$76,000. The City's Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert has received approval from the Park Board for this project. There are no other appropriated funds in the 2020 budget, so to allow using the funds that were transferred into the general fund, an additional appropriation will need to be approved. Councilman Sirk made a motion to give the Clerk-Treasurer permission to move

forward with the WebEx project and to allow an additional appropriation to fund this project. Motion was seconded by Councilman Coshow. Motion carried.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief Lennie Corral noted Officer Dennis Bosler has graduated from the academy and has started working 1st shift this week and will be working 2nd shift next week.

Council Input:

Murray questioned what the relationship would be with PAWS of Adams County if a contract was signed. It was noted they would likely run the facility and municipalities would provide the funding, likely based on population.

Coshow noted Decatur Main Street and the Chamber were sponsoring a Shop Locally event this weekend and that the Downtown Christmas Open House would be held on Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21, 2020.

City Attorney Tim Baker thanked Attorney Anne Razo for filling in for him two weeks ago. He thanked all for their thoughts and prayers while he had COVID-19. Attorney Baker shared that for those thinking COVID-19 is not serious, he would not want to wish it upon anyone. He stressed the need to wear a mask and to socially distance to protect others.

Mayor Rickord echoed Attorney Baker's comments that there would be a meeting on Wednesday evening, November 18 with Dr. Mike Ainsworth of the Board of Health, and County Council and Commissioners, School leaders, and the City Mayors and City Council members to figure out the best way to move forward. Mayor Rickord encouraged people to follow the guidelines and try to get through the holidays as safely as possible. He also asked people not to take their anger out on people, especially those businesses and their employees asking to wear a mask.

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

Adjournment was at 8:33 P.M.