

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 2019

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. 2nd 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 November 4, 2019 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The first item on the agenda was a report from the City's Public Art Commission. Ron Storey, president of the Commission introduced the various members of the Commission. Members present were himself, Ron Storey representing the Decatur Redevelopment Commission, Coni Mayer representing the Decatur Sculpture Tour, Brian Clemons representing Decatur Main Street, Carole Macklin representing Decatur Cultural Connection, and local artist, Darlene Vassil. Other members who were unable to attend are Joan Siefring representing the Parks & Recreation, Susan Roe representing the North Adams Arts Council and local artist, Curtis Rose, and the non-voting member, Brielle Adams, who is the Public Art Director for the HIVE. The members were to come up with by-laws and a budget as per the ordinance. The by-laws were guided by the by-laws used for the Decatur Redevelopment Commission. The budget of \$10,000 as provided in the City's 2020 Budget includes \$4,000 for Public Art programs, \$4,000 for Public Art projects, and \$2,000 for operating expenses. Storey shared he had been elected as President of the Commission, Brian Clemons as the Vice-President, Susan Roe as Secretary. City Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright, will serve as the Treasurer per Ordinance. Storey shared the meetings are to be held quarterly and will be held the first Monday of January, April, July, and October at 5 P.M. in City Hall. Topics for the January meeting will be to formalize the Mission Statement, make a list of the wood carvings located throughout the City, and discuss art located at intersections, and art/murals on the brick wall. The Commission members were thanked for their involvement.

Attorney, Audra Snyder, representing Hoosier Pattern, Inc. and RH Warehouse, LLC presented a Petition to Designate an Economic Revitalization Area for tax abatement at 906 N. 10th Street. The abatement is for ten (10) years for both real estate and equipment for approximately \$2.7 million. Owner Keith Gerber was introduced, as well as employees Dave Rittmeyer and Melissa Affolder. Rittmeyer gave a PowerPoint presentation showing photos of the new equipment needed and explaining the use of sand. The company has a customer base of over 200 and is in all continents except Africa and Antarctica. The equipment used in Hoosier Pattern, Inc is made in Germany. With the new equipment, six (6) additional employees will be added, with 50 retained. The City Attorney had received a letter from Colton Bickel, Executive Director of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation who was unable to attend the meeting but gave his support for the abatement. Sirk made a motion to make Bickel's letter a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. Declaratory Resolution 2019- 9 was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to introduce Declaratory Resolution 2019-9, a resolution for the Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area upon the application of Hoosier Pattern Inc., and RH Warehouse, LLC located at 906 N. 10th Street for a ten (10) year abatement for both real estate and personal property. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney, Tim Baker read Resolution

2019-9 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Declaratory Resolution 2019-9. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted. Coshow then made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the Confirming Resolution for the abatement at the next meeting on December 3, 2019. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. City Attorney, Tim Baker mentioned that the Decatur Redevelopment Commission will also hold a Public Hearing on the abatement, due to Hoosier Pattern being located in Decatur TIF District, which will be held the following evening on Wednesday, December 4th at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

The next item on the agenda was the crossing guards for North Adams Community Schools. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, and Deputy Police Chief, Chris Brite shared with the public in attendance that following the School Board meeting Brite, Gilbert, Mayor Meyer, City Attorney Tim Baker, and Police Chief Lennie Corral had met and decided a Roadway Safety Audit needed to be held before anything specific is done. City Attorney, Tim Baker mentioned that the Indiana Manual on Uniform Traffic Control provides the need for an in-depth study. Starting tomorrow morning, Wednesday, November 20, 2019, the Decatur Police Department will handle the crosswalks in the morning and in the afternoon. The outside audit will study the area and make recommendations for a long term comprehensive plan. When asked regarding the timeline, the audit is hoped it can be completed by January 1, 2020 then the City will meet with the School Board and share the results. The audit will look at sidewalks, lighting, speed limits, and will be completed by USI Consultants of Indianapolis. City Attorney Baker noted another reason for a study is that it could facilitate obtaining grants.

Department Heads Input:

Melissa Norby, Community Development Director, shared that students from Belmont High School assisted in decorating City Hall for the holidays. She also noted the entrepreneur classes being held upstairs is going well.

Chris Brite, Deputy Police Chief, reported background checks are being done for three (3) applicants and they hope to scale down to one (1) candidate in the near future.

Les Marckel, Fire Chief, reported the Department has been busy with the Survive Alive House and Fire Phil program with 4th grade students this week. He encouraged parents to work with their children with the materials that are provided to the them.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, announced that meters will be changed out this winter, and letters will be going out to those residents. There is no cost to the customer, but they will need to contact the utility office to schedule the meter to be changed.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared that things are coming along well at Hanna Nuttman Park. Netting and fencing is going up, and the contract work is about 40% completed.

Don Bergdall, Civil Infrastructure Manager reported that they are continuing work on inspecting sewers.

Council Input:

Sirk inquired if there was any work started for a sidewalk on the south side of E. Monroe Street, noting he wants to be proactive. Fullenkamp would be interested in getting an estimate of cost for sidewalks on the south side of E. Monroe Street. Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert informed them that he could provide an estimate to the council members.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Collier 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 8:15 P.M.