

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
November 20, 2018

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. Members present were Craig Coshow, Bill Karbach and Mayor Ken Meyer. Also present were City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the November 6, 2018 meeting. Karbach made a motion to approve the minutes. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The first item on the agenda was Mr. and Mrs. David Heyerly, who own the house at 513 Marshall Street and are seeking assistance from the City in demolishing the home. Mr. Heyerly and the resident on the other side of the home had originally planned to purchase and demolish the house, and then split the lot. However, the other resident backed out and Heyerly ended up with the home. He received an estimate for demolition of \$22,000, which he cannot afford. The neighbor who had originally been part of the plan has since put his home up for sale. Karbach shared the home in question has been on the City's radar for some time and during Mayor Schultz's term the City demolished a garage at the owner's expense on that property due to being in such poor condition. Mayor Meyer noted the City is not in the business of taking down homes except those in the flood areas with assistance from FEMA, or they're City owned properties. Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, noted that if the City would condemn the home, the City would still have some responsibilities. Mrs. Heyerly shared the floor is rotted through and the foundation is poor, and they have removed everything from the home. Coshow suggested Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager to look at the home and come up with a cost including machinery rental, man power hours, fees to remove the debris and so forth. Gilbert gave a quick estimate that the cost would likely be in the neighborhood of \$10,000. Karbach mentioned that he felt demolition would be an advantage for the City as well as for the Heyerly's. He also noted the City is not in the business of tearing down homes, but is in the business of making the City and neighborhoods look better. By consensus, Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert and the Civil Infrastructure Manager, Don Bergdall were directed to look at the home and come up with some ideas to share with the Board and the Heyerly's in the near future.

Wastewater Superintendent, Karey Fuelling and Tina Wolffe from Kokosing appeared before the Board to provide an update regarding the Clarifier Project. Clarifier 2 has been installed with the installation going quite well. They are now working on Clarifier 3. They had to re-pour the concrete wall, and are re-seeding the area. They are still on schedule and budget to finish the project.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent reported on the home at 213 Rugg Street owned by Tia Piotrowski who was served a notice to abate on September 27, 2018, informing the resident they had 30 days to clean up the property, and to attend this evening's meeting. However, no clean up has been done and they have not attended this evening's meeting. They were told that if the City would have to do the cleanup, they would be billed at the rate of \$160 an hour. Witte shared there are tires all over the property. Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor commented that they are behind on their utility bill too. Coshow made a motion for the Mayor to call the property owner and give them a deadline to clean up the property, and if not done and the City would have to clean up the property, they will be billed at \$160 per hour, if not paid, the City could place a lien on the property. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmen Cam Collier, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Wylie Sirk joined the Board of Works for information purposes only.

Chief of Police, Lennie Corral appeared before the Board and shared that when he had attended Chief's School earlier he learned that the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Department needed to be updated. Thus, he, Deputy Chief Mahan, and the Sergeants had met and updated the SOP manual. He noted they had studied the language from other departments. Chief Corral presented the updated SOP to Board members and asked them to review and suggest any changes before adopting. Corral mentioned that there will be a hard copy kept at the Department, and all officers will be given copies electronically. The officers will sign a paper noting they have received the new SOP manual.

Chief Corral shared that the officers had raised about \$400 for the No Shave November event which they will donate to the Hanna Nuttman Project and the Police Department's Christmas party. He asked permission to allow those who wish to participate in extending the No Shave November through the end of the year, which will raise approximately an extra \$100. Coshow made a motion to approve the extension to the end of the year. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Chief Corral reported that Nathan Hunter who will be replacing Austin Gross has taken and passed all tests. Karbach asked Corral if he needed to wear a bullet proof vest when he is riding with an officer, Corral informed him that anyone riding over 20 minutes would need to wear a vest.

Coshow made a motion to make the resignation letter effective November 30, 2018 for Austin Gross from the Police Department a matter of record. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to make the letter of resignation from Darrell Drake who worked for the Public Works/Water Department a matter of record. The resignation letter reads the effective date is November 23, 2018, but due to November 22nd and November 23rd being holidays, his last work day in pay status will be November 21, 2018. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Councilman Dyer brought up the concept if a disgruntled employee resigns is it better to let the employee go immediately rather than risking the possibility of negative actions before the leave becomes effective. Coshow made a motion for Mayor Meyer to discuss this topic with the Department Heads at their next meeting. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Superintendent presented a letter stating that Josh Butler has passed IDEM testing for the Wastewater Class III certification, which qualifies him for a new title to a Certified Plant Operator at a pay rate of \$19.00 an hour, effective for the next pay period. Mr. Butler still needs more time on the job before receiving the top rate of pay of \$19.43 for this position. Coshow made a motion to make the letter a matter of record to change Josh Butler's title and to change his rate of pay to \$19.00 an hour. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager reported that Steve Gass has been transferred from the MVH-Street Labor/Operator to MVH-Street Forester position effective November 13, 2018. Also, Jared Fuelling has been transferred from Sanitation Collector to the Water Utility Department as a Labor/Operator effective November 13, 2018. Coshow made a motion to make the job transfers a matter of record. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, noted he had been working with Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, regarding the replacement of a trucks for the Water Department. He shared they have three (3) vehicles with over 100,000 miles and two (2) with over 150,000 miles. Mayor Meyer shared he had received a call from Enterprise and Gilbert indicated he had also heard from Enterprise. He shared he had known of some cities who had gone that way with nearly half of them no longer in that direction. Gilbert had received a quote from Kelley for a 2019 Chevy Silverado ½ ton pick-up with 4-wheel drive for \$27,204. Coshow made a motion to purchase one truck at this time for the cost of \$27,204. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared the Board had originally approved spending up to \$30,000 for the sound system for Madison Street Plaza. Gilbert had met with Chris Caston of Innovative Concepts and his representative and they have found a different style of speaker which is called a Hurricane Speaker. The speaker would be water proof. Talking with Mr. Caston, they considered having speakers along Second Street. It was suggested also adding a microphone and surge protector. So, the new total would be about \$32,840.42. Mr. Caston does not want any sort of recognition and it was noted he is giving the City about a 35% discount. It was shared the funding would come from donations being held at the Adams County Community Foundation. Coshow made a motion to approve an additional cost not-to-exceed \$2,500 to finish the sound system for Madison Street Plaza. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted. It was shared the equipment will be stored in the storage area of the Madison Street restrooms. It was also noted that internet will be needed at a later time.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Coshow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:13 P.M.