

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
December 6, 2016

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 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 were City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer emailed the minutes from the November 15, 2016 meeting. There were no corrections. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Community Coordinator Melissa Norby and Main Street member Tony Murray appeared before the Council to request remaining funds from 2016 be carried over and added to the funds budgeted for the façade program in 2017. So far in 2016 they have spent \$25,000 leaving approximately \$15,000 yet to pay for finishing some projects. There were 4 projects this year and several have already shown interest in participating in 2017. Collier made a motion to carry over the remaining CEDIT funds from the 2016 budget to be used in 2017. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Meyer shared a request from the Chamber of Commerce asking the City of Decatur to be a sponsor for the Annual Dinner to be held on February 6, 2017. Last year the City was a sponsor at the highest level of \$350. Sirk made a motion to be a sponsor at \$350 and the motion was seconded by Dyer. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote as Coshow abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

The need to adopt an interlocal agreement with the Adams County Commissioners and the Adams County Council in order to share the costs of Timothy Graf, an employee of the Soil and Water Conservation District was noted. Mr. Graf would assist with the Stormwater Department which has been without assistance since the resignation of Nate Rumschlag. The City agreed to pay \$20 per hour for 10 hours a week or \$10,400 a year to be paid quarterly. The agreement needs the approval of two executive bodies and the Board of Public Works and Safety who has passed Resolution No. 2016-17 earlier this evening. Coshow made a motion to approve the agreement passed by the Board of Public Works and Safety. Sirk seconded the motion. Motion passed. Mr. Graf's salary will be paid from the Stormwater Utility fund.

Mayor Meyer than brought up the item of Capital Campaign Projects. He noted people are coming before him and asking why the city doesn't have certain things--basically quality of life projects. He noted Fort Wayne is anticipating a number of job growth and that some of these jobs could easily be filled by people interested in living in Decatur. These projects would be those to help improve the quality of life of the City. These projects include the development of the riverfront along First Street and the proposed work on Madison Street.

Mayor Meyer has talked with JPR and they will provide a design for the 1st Street area at a cost not to exceed \$10,500. Since the Redevelopment Commission had offered to pay up to \$12,500, or ½ of \$25,000 originally suggested as a cost for design work for 1st Street, the ½ now would be \$5,250. Since they committed up to \$12,500, it was suggested that they may be willing to pay the total cost of \$10,500. Mayor Meyer will propose that at the meeting of the Redevelopment Commission at its meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2016.

A second project is an Aquatics Park to replace the 90 year old pool which loses money each year. It was noted that Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert, and Larry Isch, Park Board President, and Mayor Ken Meyer had gone to Portland, Indiana to check out their park. HWC Engineering would develop a plan at a cost of \$23,900.

The third project would be Hanna-Nuttman ball diamonds. There is a safety issue there with the parking situation and a need to upgrade concession stands and restrooms. Brett Miller of Miller Land Surveying would prepare a plan for a fee not to exceed \$25,000.

It was noted that \$675,000 has been pledged. Mayor Meyer suggested a North Adams County Capital Campaign in which all residents with a Decatur address would be contacted to help support the projects. After the projects would be designed, a marketing agency would be needed to market the projects and gain the needed funding. Collier noted the projects have been started with the Stellar proposal. It was also stressed by Council members that the residents need to see progress.

Mayor Meyer shared that the City learned last Thursday that they did not get the \$500,000 OCRA grant they had applied for to update Madison Street. The City has already committed \$100,000 towards this project and will continue to pursue the project. Operations Manager Gilbert shared that lots of things will be happening in 2017. He noted the city can start some of these projects and people will see things happening.

It was shared that the Schafer building will be coming down in 2017 whether Biggs receives funding or not.

A motion was made by Sirk to fund and go ahead with the 3 plans and then fund a marketing agency up to \$50,000. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Meyer thanked the community for coming together and for all the prayers for Remington Bultemeier, son of Corbin and Lisa Bultemeier who had suffered a serious neck injury while wrestling.

Department Heads:

Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert announced that leaf collection would end Friday and that recycling would be collecting cardboard each week in December.

Council Input:

Discussion centered around the possibility of hiring a City Engineer. The Mayor noted there was money in the budget and he had some things in the works.

Clerk-Treasurer Whitright noted the Redevelopment Commission would be meeting tomorrow evening and the Mayor's appointments of Rex Hinsky, Max Miller, and Ron Storey and the Council appointments of Craig Russett and Larry Isch are up for re-appointment. By consensus the Mayor and Council members agreed with the re-appointments of the current individuals if they are willing to serve.

A motion to pay the claims against the City was made by Coshow and seconded by Dyer. Motion carried. Councilman Fullenkamp recused himself due to his company having a claim.

There being no other business to come before the Council, Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Collier seconded the motion which passed.

Adjournment was at 8:40 p.m.