

City of Decatur  
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes  
December 18, 2018

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, December 18, 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 December 4, 2018 meeting. Coshow made a motion to approve the minutes. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The first item on the agenda was an update regarding residents who have been issued deadlines for compliance. Don Bergdall, Civil Infrastructure Manager, and Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, appeared before the Board. The first item was Mark Gambill at N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street who owns an auto repair, had been notified of a December 18, 2018 deadline to be in compliance with an earlier agreement in which he was not to have any cars on the street, a maximum of four (4) customers' cars on the lot, and to clean up the property. If not in compliance on Thursday, December 18, 2018 it was decided to encourage the BZA to meet and recommend that they send an order giving Mr. Gambill fifteen (15) days to comply and if not in compliance at that time, he will be shut down. It was decided to post the notice for the BZA meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 scheduling a meeting for Thursday, December 27, 2018 and recommending another order notice to be sent to Mr. Gambill on December 28, 2018, giving him fifteen (15) day to come into compliance. It was also suggested that Building and Zoning Superintendent, Curt Witte have a standing order to give notice of noncompliance and to shut down if needed. City Attorney, Tim Baker shared that if the City needs to continue giving notices, it may need to go to court to revoke the Compliance Order.

The next area of concern was 213 Rugg Street. It was shared both the owner and the tenant Lisa Klinetob and Tia Piotrowski had been contacted. It was shared some slight improvements had been made. They were thanked for these slight improvements, but they were notified they were still in violation of City Code. Mayor Meyer shared he had called both, Klinetob and Piotrowski, and told them the City would remove tires and junk from the yard at a cost of \$160 per hour. After discussion, it was decided by consensus that the City would remove the items and temporarily store them, giving the owner and tenant the opportunity to claim any items they felt they needed. Karbach shared the City has an ordinance that takes care of yards and inoperable automobiles, but needs an ordinance governing excess junk and trash in yards. Mayor Meyer is to contact both the owner and tenant to inform them that the City is coming to clean up the property.

The third area of concern was Cottonwood Estates Mobile Home Park located at 521 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. It was shared the owner, Nick Kos had hired a company to tear down the mobile homes, but did not remove any debris. Trucks are to be in on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 to haul the debris away. It was shared that gas will be shut off the first of the year. Mayor Meyer shared a surveyor had been at the site today. Karbach asked if the City could do the potential buyer, Josh Heck, a favor by using the street sweeper to clear the streets once this project is complete. No decisions were made at this time.

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

Mayor Meyer shared he had received an email from North Adams Superintendent Brent Lehman noting there were plans for the Northwest School building and asking if the City had any

interest in the Southeast School building. Mayor noted he asked about the back area of Northwest and shared that Lehman was thinking the same thing regarding that area and the City's interest in it. The City can ponder any ideas regarding the Southeast School at this time.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, appeared before the Board regarding the old water tower located along the Rivergreenway Trail by the former Erie Haven. He shared it was crumbling and has been blocked off. He noted it needs to be taken down and asked permission to get a couple of quotes for demolition. He estimated a cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000, which could be paid from the Building & Plan Commission's Unsafe Building account. Coshow made a motion to allow Gilbert to continue with the process and get quotes to tear down the tower. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Gilbert next brought up the wall left after tearing down the building at the northwest corner of First and Monroe Streets. It was shared that the Building & Plan Commission's Unsafe Building account money could be used. By consensus, Gilbert was given permission to advertise for bids for the project as soon as possible in 2019.

Gilbert next shared that with the many gas explosions happening throughout the state and nation, NIPSCO is beginning to take a proactive approach to safety. NIPSCO has identified a few areas where gas lines are located in the City's sewers. Gilbert shared a recent problem in Stratton Addition where the gas main had eventually been moved. After meeting with NIPSCO representative Roger Brown, Gilbert noted NIPSCO is willing to sit down with the City and look where potential conflicts could be located. It was noted NIPSCO wishes to protect themselves as well as the City as they plan to come into the City by mid-2019 and start looking for any problem areas. This work would be done at no cost to the City. Thus, NIPSCO is seeking permission to look into the City sewers and Gilbert feels any information will be shared with the City. Gilbert presented an Authorization, Access and Indemnification Agreement between the City of Decatur Utilities, and NIPSCO. Coshow made a motion to allow NIPSCO to camera the storm and sanitary lines and to encourage NIPSCO to share any information gained with the City, and for the Mayor to sign the agreement on behalf of the City. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was passed.

The City Attorney brought up an incident where a gas line was hit by the contractor during the East Monroe Street improvement project and asked if the City had received any reimbursement. The Clerk-Treasurer informed him that the City did not receive reimbursement. Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert will get the information that was sent to NIPSCO from the Clerk-Treasurer and try to pursue reimbursement for the City.

The next item brought forth was the 2019 Township Fire Contracts with Union \$7,246.26, Root \$17,209.88, Washington \$12,680.96, and St. Mary's Township \$8,152.05. Fire Chief, Les Marckel shared the 2019 amount is up slightly because of increased assessed valuation and the formula used. Coshow made a motion to approve and sign the 2019 Fire Contracts with Union, Root, Washington, and St. Mary's Townships. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted. The Clerk-Treasurer will mail the contracts to the Township Trustees to be approved and signed by their boards.

Coshow made a motion to make a matter of record the Certificate of Appointment for Dan McGill who was sworn in as a Patrolman of the Decatur Police Department effective December 10, 2018 a matter of record. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

Coshow then made a motion to make the Conditional Employment Contract between the City and Dan McGill a matter of record. Seconded by Karbach, the motion was adopted.

A letter of agreement between the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and the City of Decatur Parks & Recreation and various committees for sharing the expenses of 2-200 amp electrical services was next considered. The electrical services were installed at 405 Jackson Street behind the Riverside Center. A grant was received from the Adams County Community Foundation in the amount of \$4,000 leaving \$1,131.25 per entity to cover the balance of the cost of the electrical services. Each group will pay approximately \$21 a year. Monthly expenses will be shared by an established schedule to be available at the Chamber office. Payment is made for activities such as the Highland Games, Kekionga Days, Main Street, and Callithumpian activities. Karbach made a motion to approve the agreement between the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Decatur Parks & Recreation. Seconded by Mayor Meyer, the motion passed with Coshow abstaining. Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert mentioned that the Decatur Parks & Recreation Board had previously approved sharing the cost of the electrical services.

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 7:03 P.M.