

CITY OF DECATUR
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2009

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety met on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers. Members present were Mayor John Schultz and Board Members Bill Karbach and Ken Meyer. Also present was City Attorney, Tim Baker.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Schultz. The Clerk-Treasurer emailed the minutes from January 20th. There were no corrections or amendments offered, so Karbach made a motion to approve the minutes as received, Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

James P. Hitchcock who is Deputy Fire Chief completed a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for Hitchcock Concrete, Inc. who will be doing concrete work for city projects. Meyer made a motion to make the disclosure statement a matter of record. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright will mail a copy of the disclosure statement to the County Clerk and to the State Board of Accounts.

The City Attorney, Tim Baker explained to the Board of Works members and also attending Council members the results of the 2009 budgets after the assessed valuation was certified to the DLGF. Due to the Supplemental Homestead Exemption, Decatur's assessed valuation is down by \$50 million. Also, the miscellaneous tax revenues for the general fund are down by \$40,000, and interest on investments down by \$276,000. The operating balance in the general fund is down by \$900,000. Decatur's maximum levy is at \$3.1 million, which lowers the amount of property tax revenue allowed in the general fund by \$971,000. Baker outlined three (3) options for consideration on response to this shortfall. 1) Allocate the tax levy amounts from the Police and Fire Pension funds to the general fund, since the State will be taking over the funding for these two funds. 2) Council members make further cuts to the 2009 budgets 3) Department heads watch spending this year so the amount that is left in their budgets reverts back to the general fund at a higher level than normal to help build up the operating balance. The City Attorney and the Mayor spoke with the Department Heads already, and they are aware of the financial situation. The Mayor encouraged the Board of Works members and the Council members to email Senator Travis Holdman, and State Rep. Matt Lehman to inform them of the city's financial situation due to the property tax reform.

Larry Macklin, ACEDC Director gave an update on the Decatur Casting site. To date, no underground storage tanks have been found on the site. The environmental assessment will be done on February 9th. Macklin stated there is someone interested in purchasing this property. Macklin has also applied for a grant to remove footers and concrete to create a green space and add a buffer along the property.

Macklin reported he is currently working with OCRA to obtain funds to replace the railroad bridge used by Bunge to ship their supplies.

Macklin also informed the Board of Works members and Council members he may have a buyer for Industrial Park III. Macklin would like to have a firm price for the property. The Mayor commented the city has \$20,000 invested per acre. By consensus, the price is negotiable, dependent upon job creation.

Bob Ladd, Utilities Auditor was present to discuss the part-time utility clerk to help the Street Department with computer entry work. Ladd requested changing the status of his part-time employee to full-time and to have the full-time employee work less hours. The City Attorney commented in order to be in a PERF covered position, an employee has to be full-time, also if the full-time positions are for the same job the employees have to be paid the same amount. Ladd asked to have both utility clerks work only 32 hours, but still consider them full-time with benefits. The Mayor commented he can't see doing this at this time, because of the financial situation. Ladd commented economy has hurt the collections in the utility office, there isn't enough money if paid out of one fund, but if paid out of all three utilities he would have enough money. Karbach made a motion to approve the request. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler and Deputy Police Chief, Greg Cook were present for any questions or comments on the School Resource Officer Program. The only question was from Councilman Cook questioned on Page 3, Section 2.01-Details of Working Relationship Part B #3, which states the Decatur Police Department agrees to pay the salary and benefits of the SRO. This should be worded to explain the SRO's salary will be paid from a grant and the city would pay for the benefits. Karbach made a motion to approve the School Resource Officer Program. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Meyer made a motion for adjournment. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.