

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 7:30 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Schultz. Roll call was taken to show Councilwoman Barb Engle and Councilmen Charlie Cook, Bill Crone, Matt Dyer and Ken Meyer were in attendance. City Attorney, Tim Baker was also present.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 20th council meeting. There were no additions or corrections offered so Cook made a motion to approve the minutes as received. Engle seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

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

The City Attorney, reported on 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. This was discussed at the Board of Works meeting and at the Department Head meeting earlier today. It was unanimous to have the Department Heads cut down on their spending this year, so the monies left in their budgets will revert back to the general fund to increase the operating balance, also Councilman Cook made a motion to direct the Clerk-Treasurer to transfer the property tax levy from the Police and Fire Pension Funds to the general fund, since these funds will be funded by the State. Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright will prepare a letter to the DLGF requesting the transfers approved by council members.

The Mayor announced the Census Bureau will have temporary jobs available. If anyone is interested they can apply at the Decatur Library on Thursday's during the month of February at 1:00 p.m. and you must have two (2) forms of ID.

The Mayor reported he has prepared a list of projects for the proposed Stimulus Package totaling approximately \$10 million.

The Mayor announced Adams Memorial Hospital will be hosting a seminar about Dealing with Unstable Economy on February 9th, anyone interested should contact the hospital.

The Mayor reported due to the decision at the Board of Works meeting to allow paying benefits to employees working under 40 hours, the policy manual will need to be amended. Engle made a motion to change the policy manual to read a city employee who works a minimum of 32 hours a week is considered full-time and shall receive full-time benefits. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert reported he will be doing a traffic study for the speed on 2nd Street between Jackson and Adams Street. Gilbert has received a lot of calls requesting to reduce the speed in that area.

Councilman Dyer questioned whether or not to install 4 way stop signs at 2nd Street and Madison Street. Gilbert informed Dyer he will have a solution after the study is done.

Councilman Meyer questioned if North 5th Street and Marshall Street could be resurfaced. Gilbert informed Meyer milling will be done in April.

Councilman Cook requested whether or not the traffic light at High Street and Grant Street could be removed since the hospital is no longer at that location. Gilbert remarked there has been problems with this light and that there is no need to have the traffic light there anymore, so if council wants this removed, it can be removed. By consensus, the traffic light at High Street and Grant Street will be removed.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler thanked the council members for allowing him to make his own cuts to 2009 Police budget he prepared, and also for giving him early notice to do so.

Chris Krull, Parks & Recreation Leisure Services Director announced the Parks Department is now utilizing the indoor pool at Belmont High School.

Joan Eichhorn, Storm Water Manager reported IDEM will be auditing the Storm Water Department early this summer.

Roger Gage, Plan/Bldg Supt. announced the IDNR has changed the City of Decatur from a Class 9 to Class 8, which mean city residents that have flood insurance will now get a 10% discount on flood insurance premiums instead of 5%. The Mayor commented this is due to Roger Gage being Certified in Flood Plan Management.

Fire, Chief, Les Marckel asked council, due to budget restraints whether or not his 10% portion to the County Communication grant is available. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Marckel she has put aside these funds out of the Cumulative Capital Improvement (CCI) Fund for 2009.

Councilwoman Engle thanked the street department and commented she received many nice compliments from citizens about the snow removal in the city.

City Attorney, Tim Baker handed out to council members the City Code, Chapter 32 for the Council members to review and make any changes to be addressed at the next council meeting on February 17th.

Engle made a motion to allow the claims as presented. Cook seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Dyer made a motion for adjournment. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.