

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2010

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 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, Councilmen Charlie Cook, Bill Crone, Matt Dyer and Ken Meyer were in attendance. Also present was City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from February 2nd meeting. There were no corrections or amendments, so Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed, Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Macklin, Executive Director of Adams County Economic Development Corp. announced Beaty Construction Co. was awarded the contract to construct the new rail bridge at Bunge with \$2.5 million of Stimulus funds. A year and half ago Macklin was contacted by Bunge to replace the rail bridge over the St. Mary's River. Bunge depends on this rail bridge to ship soy beans and edible oils, but can't completely fill the train cars due to weight restrictions. The 1897 bridge will be moved to Geneva over the Wabash River and the new bridge will be built in a week to ten days. Also included in this project will be a rehabilitation of the crossing on US Highway 27 (13th Street) near Industrial Park. Macklin also mentioned a potential buyer may be interested in the Decatur Casting property with rail. Macklin thanked everyone involved in the project, and Macklin was applauded for all his efforts in this project.

The Mayor announced City Council Members will need to appoint someone from District 3 (Civil City) for the School Board. Currently Curt Rash holds this seat. Engle made a motion to accept applications until March 15th at 4:00 p.m. in the City Clerk-Treasurer's office, and then scheduling interviews for applicants at the March 16th council meeting. Crone seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

The Decatur Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to the Mayor requesting a donation of \$3,000 for Spotlight on Decatur. Last year Council reduced annual donations to half, due to revenue losses, so Crone made a motion to stay with the policy and approve donating \$1,500. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The City Attorney was instructed to prepare an ordinance from the previous meeting to amend parking downtown. Mayor Schultz remarked the intent to amend the parking ordinance is to make it as easy as possible for people to park downtown. Currently it is two (2) hour limited parking anywhere. Business owner, Rick Sovine commented he would like consequences for people moving vehicles and removing the chalk off the tires. The Mayor explained to him it is hard to prove, and enforce this action, the Parking Officer has ticketed people if she catches them. Sovine doesn't believe having permits would change how people park. The City Attorney commented there needs to be a balance to provide parking for employees and customers. Business owner, Max Miller remarked the permit parking on Madison and Court Street will take away from customer parking. The City Attorney suggested permit parking on only one side of the street. Another business owner, Derek Vrablic suggested designating areas for permit parking. By consensus, the ordinance will not be read until further discussion at the next council meeting on March 2nd.

The City Attorney was directed at the January 19th Board of Works meeting to prepare an ordinance to amend the speed limit on 2nd Street from Adams Street to Jackson Street, and in the Stratton Addition from 30 mph to 25 mph. This ordinance also identifies maximum speed limits on City streets adjacent to or near schools located within the City. A speed limit for Industrial Park III (Fred Isch Drive) was also included. Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert performed a traffic study, which allows the city to increase or decrease the speed limit by 5 mph. The Mayor has received numerous complaints on the speed limit in Stratton Addition. There were no further comments, so Meyer motioned to Place the Ordinance on First Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Dyer and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2010-1 on First Reading. Dyer seconded the motion. The roll call was five (5) members voting in favor and none against.

Meyer motioned to Place the Ordinance on Second Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Dyer and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2010-1 on Second Reading. Engle seconded the motion. The roll call was five (5) members voting in favor and none against.

Meyer made a motion to Table Ordinance 2010-1 until the next Common Council meeting on March 2nd, seconded by Cook. All Council Members were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Schultz encouraged everyone to complete the Comprehensive Plan Survey. If anyone has questions, they are to call the Mayor at City Hall.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert requested for city residents to cooperate with the Street Department by not moving or blowing snow into the streets. This has caused the Street Department additional hours in keeping the streets cleared. The Fire Chief, Les Marckel also requested for residents who live near fire hydrants to clear the snow around the hydrants.

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

There being no further business, Cook made a motion for adjournment. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.