

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 17, 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. Also present, City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the February 3rd council meeting. There were no additions or corrections offered so Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Engle seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Present were Tom Lahmon, Wes Kuntzman, Larry Isch, Brad Martz and Ron Storey representing the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee. The committee announced three firms have submitted qualifications, but the committee felt Decatur is not ready for downtown revitalization until a comprehensive plan is completed. The current comprehensive plan was dated 1976. The committee would like to prioritize an overall plan for the entire city, and do it in phases. The committee is requesting to apply for a comprehensive planning grant through OCRA. Cook made a motion to have the Mayor write a letter of intent to seek the planning grant with OCRA, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ben Adams of Commonwealth Engineers was present to discuss the flooding situation in basements in the downtown area. The City of Decatur has been eliminating combined sewer overflows since 2004, currently has completed Phase II, leaving the swirl site pumping water to the river, which pumps 3,300 gals per minute, but due to the amount of rain and over the short period of time it still couldn't keep the sewers from backing up. Also, Adams commented if the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements were completed this may have helped the situation. Adams explained that there are still some areas in Decatur that will have flooding problems especially if there are floor drains in basements. Residents will need to close off the floor drains and add pipe to redirect the water. The problem with downtown businesses flooding is mainly due to the water has no place to run, installing sewer outlets was suggested. The Mayor requested to have Jefferson Street and Monroe Street regulators reopened temporarily until the situation can be resolved. Adams informed the Mayor IDEM would not be in favor of this, but he would submit his request.

The Mayor received the Annual CEDIT Agreement from Adams County Economic Development Corporation for two (2) payments of \$18,839.00 to the ACEDC for the year 2009. The Mayor explained these payment amounts are calculated on 13% of the City of Decatur's CEDIT distribution. Engle made a motion for the Mayor sign on behalf of the city, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wes Kuntzman of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce announced the Spotlight on Decatur event will be March 14th and requested Council to approve donating \$3,000 for advertising and promoting Decatur as requested in the past. The Mayor commented monies are short this year, due to decrease of assessed valuation. Councilman Cook suggested cutting back on the amount of the donation. Brad Martz, a committee member of the Chamber pleaded not to hamper with the funding. Councilman Meyer remarked Council members should set an example, since the department heads were instructed to cut back on their

budgets. Cook made a motion to approve the \$3,000 for this year, but noted this amount may not be available next year. Engle reluctantly seconded the motion. All in favor was Cook, Dyer and Engle. Opposed were Crone and Meyer. Motion carried.

The Mayor read a letter he had written in reference to the Indiana Legislature considering the possibility of amending the Indiana Constitution making the proposed circuit breaker property tax caps permanent. The Mayor encouraged everyone to contact State Representative, Matt Lehman and State Senator Travis Holdman in NOT supporting this amendment. The Mayor believes the caps should be studied and a decision to amend the constitution be made a year or two from now, once the impact of the affects is understood.

Councilman Dyer encouraged people to take a look at the Adams County Website to see what amounts of property taxes are collected.

The Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert announced the flashing light at the intercession of Grant Street and High Street will be removed in a week or two.

The Clerk-Treasurer prepared a list of all checks outstanding and unpaid for the period of two years as of December 31, 2006 are void. These amounts will be re-deposited into the funds they were originally drawn. \$113.62 deposited back to the General fund, and \$397.96 deposited back to the Water Utility fund. Dyer made a motion to make the outstanding check list a matter of record. Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The amendment to the City Code of Ordinance book on how Council meetings should be conducted was tabled until the next meeting. Councilman Crone requested the City Attorney provide suggestions to the Council members at the next Council meeting on March 3rd.

The City Attorney reported the appointment for the Decatur Economic Development Committee has expired. The Clerk-Treasurer was instructed to prepare the Certificate of Appointment for the March 3rd Council meeting.

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 8:30 p.m.