

CITY OF DECATUR  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY MINUTES  
MARCH 1, 2011

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety met on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 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 and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Schultz. The Clerk-Treasurer emailed the minutes from February 15th, there were no corrections or amendments offered. Karbach made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Schultz was asked whether or not the City of Decatur would allow citizens from the City of Berne to drive golf carts in Decatur. Karbach made a motion to allow golf carts from Berne as long as the golf carts are licensed and meet the City of Decatur's safety requirements. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor informed the Board of Works members that INDOT requires a selection process for a consulting firm for the sign grant. Karbach made a motion for the Board of Works members to have the authority to select the consulting firm. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The City Attorney, Tim Baker prepared a Conditional Employment Contract for the newest Police Patrolman, Christopher Everett who will begin his duties effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. Karbach made a motion to make the Contract a matter of record. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Schultz read a letter written to Fire Chief, Les Marckel from Joel Christian requesting an appeal process for being terminated from employment as a volunteer firefighter with the Decatur Fire Department. City Attorney, Tim Baker prepared a letter to Joel Christian responding to the letter written to the Fire Chief. The Board of Works members reviewed the letter and instructed the City Attorney to mail the letter to Christian, and to inform Christian a Special Board of Works meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall to discuss the letter written to the Fire Chief, and to allow Christian the opportunity to present testimony and evidence for the disciplinary action for the board members to reconsider.

The City received a notice of hearing for Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from Indiana Department of Workforce Development filed by Joel Christian for whether the claimant voluntarily left employment without good cause in connection with work or the employer discharge the claimant for just cause. Meyer made a motion to participate in the hearing, and for the Clerk-Treasurer to fax information that was previously sent to Department of Workforce Development for the judge to review before the hearing. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried. The City Attorney and the Clerk-Treasurer will participate in the hearing, since the Mayor has other commitments on that date.

Council members, Charlie Cook, Bill Crone, Matt Dyer, and Barb Engle attended the Board of Works meeting.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler hired four (4) new Police Reserve Officers. The Clerk-Treasurer swore in each new officer, Christopher Everett, Casey Springer, Skyler Curtis, and Derek Loshe. Meyer made a motion to make the Oath of Office for the Police Reserves a matter of record. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The City Attorney received from Amy Richison who was appointed by the Court as Special Prosecuting Attorney to consider all the facts and circumstances that criminal charges should not be filed at this time against Christopher Brite. Richinson is requesting to be released from her duties as Special Prosecutor given that she has concluded her investigation and has chosen not to file criminal charges. Board members discussed not to review any reports pertaining to this incident until the City Attorney receives more information whether the other individual in this incident was charged with any criminal crime. Meyer made a motion to make the Report of Special Prosecuting Attorney a matter of record. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jim Inskeep, Water Supt. was present to request amending the City's Personnel Policy to reflect how overtime is calculated for holidays, sick, vacation, and funeral days. Currently, the policy reads that these days are not considered days worked, which overtime is only paid on actual hours worked. It was explained that when there is a holiday, and an employee works extra hours during the week, the extra time worked is not paid as overtime, due to the holiday not being considered as time worked. The Mayor remarked that since the City establishes the holidays, then holidays should be considered time worked, but the vacation and sick days are a choice so these days should not be considered as time worked. Inskeep also requested the board members amend the funeral days to be counted as time worked. Meyer made a motion to amend the personnel policy to consider holidays and funeral days as time worked, effective February 21<sup>st</sup>, Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried. Inskeep was informed if he has any future concerns to discuss the situation with the Mayor or attend a Board of Works meeting.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler introduced the last three (3) police officer hired; Jon Wenzel, Brad Stoltz, and Corey Hamm to the Council members.

Board member, Bill Karbach asked council members for their opinion if they would consider it a good idea for him to ride with a police officer to tag cars that are violating the city code of ordinance. It was discussed it would be better to make an announcement to the public before doing so, and to maybe get the public involved in take pride in their property for the 175<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. It was decided to announce this at the next council meeting.

There being no further business, Karbach made a motion for adjournment. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7.25 p.m.