

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
APRIL 7, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, April 7, 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 was City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the March 17th council meeting. There were no additions or corrections offered so Engle made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Dyer seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Dan Avery and Matt Vondran of Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) were present to discuss the process of administrating the grant for a Comprehensive Plan for Decatur. A firm will need to be hired to do an income survey first, to show the incomes in Decatur. The survey will cost \$2,000 to \$3,000. If Decatur qualifies, then the next step is to pursue a grant application. To enter into an agreement, the cost for the grant application would not exceed \$3,500. The deadline for NIRCC to apply to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for this grant is July or August 2009. The City should have an answer from OCRA on the success of the grant by October 2009. The grant is for \$50,000, with a local match of \$5,000. The Mayor is in favor of a Comprehensive Plan for the city, by having a Comprehensive Plan this should help in applying for other grants. The Mayor commented the funds to do this are available in the Plan Commission budget under Professional Services. Councilwoman Engle remarked she was in favor of a Comprehensive Plan for Decatur since the development of the Super Wal-Mart. Dyer made a motion for the Mayor to sign the agreement for the grant application and also approve the expenditures. Crone seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

Charlie Brune was present representing Our Children, Our Future, a group which is fighting the reconfiguration plan at North Adams Community Schools. Brune commented he discovered a law under Indiana Code about fairness in the school systems. Brune remarked the School Board and the Administration have declared themselves elected. Brune stated that Attorney Scott Ainsworth informed him an Elected School Board could be done by next spring. There could be either a 7 or 9 member School Board. Mayor Schultz informed the group, they need to have the School Board approach city council members if they want to declare an elected school board. Brune's group wants a recommendation from the city council members, since the people of the community elected them to their position. Brune appreciated the open meeting and would like to have this type of open meeting with the school board. Councilman Dyer informed the group to have the school board approach council members if this is what they are wanting. Two township trustees were also present, Darrell Ehlerding and Sue Reidenbach. Reidenbach remarked she is in favor of an elected school board, and Ehlerding said he had been a township trustee for 20 years and agreed with the rest of the group about having his opinions ignored by the School Board members. Another comment from the group was not being able to get in contact with the school board members, letters have been mailed to their homes and message left on answering machines, but no responses. Charlie Brune will relay to the North Adams Community Schools Attorney, Scott Ainsworth that city council members request for the school board to come before city council with their request for an elected school board.

The Decatur Wastewater Department had the CSO Community Notification published in the Decatur Daily Democrat on March 14, 2009. Engle made a motion to make the legal notice a matter of record. Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adam Eguia, organizer for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks handed out a flyer which showed who donates to the annual event. Eguia attended the council meeting to seek what type of donations the city will be providing for this year.

Council members discussed cutting back on donations for annual events. Councilman Crone made a motion to donate half the amount that had been given in the past to annual events. Engle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Mayor received a request from the Optimist Club to close Jackson Street on May 8<sup>th</sup> for a circus. Engle made a motion to approve the street closing, Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor announced, as discussed at the Board of Works meeting, a Special Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers to discuss budgets, wages and benefits for 2010.

The Mayor received a request from ABATE of Indiana Region Zero to close a portion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Monroe to Jefferson Street, and Madison Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and also Court Street for a motorcycle rally on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. This event will supply vendors, but if any vendors are interested they should contact the Mayor's office. Ray Bodle and Jeff Adkinson are locals putting on the event. Meyer made a motion to approve the street closings. Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor received a letter from Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc. dated April 1, 2009. This letter is written notice of Plant #44 closure, as required under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act. Total positions impacted are 443, due to a 50% or more reduction in work hours in the months of November and December of 2008, and January, February and March 2009. Cook made a motion to make the letter a matter of record. Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor encouraged council members to attend the County Council meeting on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. there will be a discussion on implementing a Local Option Income Tax (LOIT).

The City has submitted a list of eight milling and asphalt project to INDOT to be funded through Federal Stimulus funds. The mayor needs authority to hire an engineering firm to submit these projects, for an amount not exceed \$15,000. The \$15,000 will not be included with the stimulus monies, so the \$15,000 will be paid from the MVH-Street fund. Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert commented these projects will need to be done regardless if the city receives the stimulus monies or not. Cook made a motion for the mayor to hire an engineering firm to submit the projects. Dyer seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler announced that Police Patrolman, Jon Wenzel has graduated from the Police Academy.

Joan Eichhorn, Storm Water Manager encouraged city residents to adopt a storm drain by keeping debris and leaves from the storm drains.

The Mayor announced the Cub Scouts picked up trash in Hanna Nuttman Park. Parks & Recreation Supt., Steve Krull reported last Saturday people from the Church of God picked up trash in Homestead Park, and will continue cleaning the parks on the second Saturday of each month. Other church groups will also be volunteering to pick up trash along the walking trails. Community Corrections will help with cleanup too. The Mayor and Krull were very appreciative of all the help.

Chris Krull, Leisure Services Director reported the spring break activities sponsored by Parks & Recreation had an excellent turnout. Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> will be the Iron Kid Triathlon at Belmont High School from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Krull requested closing a portion of Monroe Street extended. Krull was instructed to contact the residence in that area first, and then council members will address the street closure at the next meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councilwoman Engle questioned small utility vehicles and golf carts are being driven on sidewalks. Police Chief, Ken Ketzler informed Engle golf cart can be driven if street legal, but other vehicles are not allowed on city sidewalks.

Councilman Dyer asked for an update on the flooding downtown. The Mayor informed Dyer he will be meeting on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> with Asst. Wastewater Supt., Verlin Butcher, Storm Water Manager, Joan Eichhorn and Ben Adams from Commonwealth to see what funds are available to correct some of the problem areas. Eichhorn commented the city has already done some minor repairs internally.

Brad Martz, who owns a business downtown, asked if there were any problems downtown with flooding from the last rainfall. Neither the mayor nor the storm water manager received any phone calls.

Adam Eguia asked when the 13<sup>th</sup> Street railroad tracks would be fixed. The Mayor has sent emails to the railroad and to INDOT, but has not received a response back.

Jeremy Gilbert reported the end of next week, milling and resurfacing will be done on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

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. Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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John L. Schultz, Mayor of the City of  
Decatur, Indiana

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis J. Whitright, Clerk-Treasurer