

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
APRIL 15, 2008

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 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 mailed the minutes from the April 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting. With no additions or corrections offered, Dyer made a motion for approval of the minutes as mailed. Cook seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

Adam Eguia was present to request closing Jackson Street for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks and have the restrooms open at Riverside Center from 4:00 p.m. until the conclusion of the fireworks. Eguia also requested the annual donation of \$750.00 toward the event. The show is estimated to cost \$7,000 – \$7,500. The mayor informed Eguia the monies are budgeted for this year, but the city may not be able to financially support this event next year due to property tax reforms. Eguia also mentioned future fireworks could be in jeopardy because of new fireworks regulations. Councilman Dyer encouraged Eguia to contact local service clubs for donations. Councilwoman Engle made a motion to approve the requests. Councilman Meyer mentioned the hiring freeze imposed by the mayor two weeks ago and suggested to wait to approve this expenditure after the city officials know the results of the property tax reforms. The mayor commented the reason for the temporary hiring freeze was not to replace two police officers this year and then have to lay them off the following year if funds were not available. Councilman Cook seconded the motion to approve the donation since the monies have been budgeted for this year. Cook, Crone and Engle were in favor. Dyer and Meyer opposed. The donation of \$500.00 will be paid from the common council fund, and \$250.00 will be paid from the mayor's fund.

The City Attorney, Tim Baker explained the process of appointing a school board member to the council members. All five (5) applicants were thanked for applying and encouraged to apply again if they are not selected. Roll call vote showed Cook, Crone, Engle and Meyer voting for Gary Giessler, and Dyer voting for Keith Blythe. Giessler thanked everyone for their vote of confidence. Giessler will serve on the North Adams School Board for another four (4) year term. The mayor will contact the other applicants with the results.

The mayor received a request from the Decatur Chamber of Commerce for an annual donation of \$100 toward the Planters Downtown. Engle made a motion to approve the \$100 request. Cook seconded the motion to approve the donation, commenting the monies have already been budgeted for 2008. Councilman Dyer motioned to table the request until the next meeting for the same reason for opposing the fireworks donation. Councilman Meyer seconded the motion to table the request until the next council meeting. Cook, Crone and Engle voting in favor. Dyer and Meyer opposed the request. The \$100 donation will be paid from the mayor's fund.

The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright reported the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) has approved the 2008 budget. The assessed valuation is over \$422 million, an increase of only \$5,700 from last year. This assessed valuation does not include any property tax appeals. The total tax rate for all funds is \$.77 per \$100 of assessed valuation, an increase of \$.03 from last year. A public hearing will be held for any taxpayers wanting to review the budgets, tax rates and levies on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Adams County Service Complex in the Commissioners Room.

The mayor announced Congressman Mike Pence came to visit the mayor to offer his assistance in any federal issues the city may have.

The mayor was also very proud to announce President Bill Clinton was in Decatur to speak on behalf of his wife, Hillary Clinton at Bellmont Middle School on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Police Chief, Ken Ketzler gave a report on the visit, which went very well, and had an excellent turnout. Mayor Schultz, the Police Chief, and Councilwoman Barb Engle thanked everyone involved.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert reported 11<sup>th</sup> Street from Revenge Auto to Village Green Drive will be closed on May 5<sup>th</sup> for approximately 14 days for street repairs.

Police Officer, Jim Franze informed the council member the police department will begin tagging abandoned vehicles within the city. The owners have 72 hours to respond.

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

There being no further business, Meyer made a motion for adjournment. Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.