

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 19, 2011

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 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, Matt Dyer and Ken Meyer were in attendance. Also present was City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright. Councilmen Charlie Cook and Bill Crone were absent.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Schultz. The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from April 5th meeting. There were no corrections or amendments. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Darrin Winters representing the Community Garden will hold a meeting on Saturday, April 23rd at 3:00 p.m. for people interested in planting gardens. If it rains the meeting will be on Tuesday, April 26th.

Scot Croner, Principal of Belmont High School handed out information and explained Belmont Early College High School, which allows high school students to take college courses that can be transferable college credits. Also attended were representatives from Ivy Tech Community College and IPFW University who are partners in this program. Croner remarked that this is the only High School that offers this in the State of Indiana besides Marion County schools. Larry Macklin, Director of Adams County Economic Development applauded the schools hard work to strive for higher education, which impacts employment. Wylie Sirk, Supt. of North Adams Community Schools praised how proud he is of the staff and teachers to educate the student to prepare them for college. Sirk also added that Northwest and Belmont Middle School are visiting colleges to prepare students for college. City Attorney, Tim Baker commended the program which will provide opportunities for students who will become our future leaders. Police Officer, Jim Franze commented how much this will help students and parents with college cost. Anyone wanting more information should contact North Adams Community Schools.

Steve Krull, Parks & Recreation Supt. explained that the Park Non-Reverting fund is used for special programs, but not supported by property tax. This fund has been used very little in the past couple of years. The Park Board would like to close the fund and transfer the remaining balance of approximately \$6,000 from the Park Non-Reverting fund to the Parks & Recreation Operating fund to be used for the Parks Master Plan. In order to close a fund and transfer to another fund, the Clerk-Treasurer prepared Ordinance 2011-2, which will close the Park Non-Reverting fund and transfer the remaining cash balance to the Parks & Recreation Operating fund. There were no other 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 2011-2 on First Reading. Engle seconded the motion. The roll call was three (3) members voting in favor and none against.

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

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2011-2 on Second Reading. Dyer seconded the motion. The roll call was three (3) members voting in favor and none against.

Meyer made a motion to Table Ordinance 2011-2 until the next Common Council meeting on May 3rd, seconded by Engle. Council Members were in favor. Motion carried.

Kara Martin representing the MOPS Group gave an update on the Legion Park project. Martin reported the new playground equipment will be installed on Monday, May 16th and asking for volunteers to help. Anyone wanting to help should call Riverside Center. Steve Krull, Parks & Rec. Supt. added the MOPS Group has collected over \$56,000 and the Legion Park will be the first handicapped accessible park in Decatur. Donations are still being accepted so other improvements can be made, such as swings, lights and benches.

With the Celebration of the 175th birthday, and the Comprehensive Plan, the City is working on a project called Operation Cleanup. This project will involve Roger Gage, Building Supt., and Board of Works member, Bill Karbach and City Attorney, Tim Baker working together to enforce the City Code for nuisances pertaining to unlicensed and inoperable vehicles in the city. Violators will be given a letter and have ten (10) days to take care of the violation. If no response is received police officers will tag the vehicle, which will give the owner 72 hours to respond. Other nuisances will include accumulated rubbish, and dangerous and dilapidated buildings. The residential areas will be looked at first and then businesses. Gage encouraged city residents to work together to help make this project run smoother. The current nuisance ordinance does not address trailers, campers, bikes or other items not operational, so the City Attorney prepared Ordinance 2011-3 to address these items. 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 2011-3 on First Reading. Engle seconded the motion. The roll call was three (3) members voting in favor and none against.

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

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2011-3 on Second Reading. Dyer seconded the motion. The roll call was three (3) members voting in favor and none against.

Meyer made a motion to Table Ordinance 2011-3 until the next Common Council meeting on May 3rd, seconded by Engle. Council Members were in favor. Motion carried.

Wylie Sirk, North Adams Community Schools Superintendent spoke briefly about the School Referendum. Sirk explained the School Board has had to close one Elementary School, and eliminate 40 positions, due to the declining balance in the Schools General fund over the last two (2) years. The School Board doesn't want to make further cuts, so in order to create revenue; the other option is to increase property taxes. The Department of Local Government Finance has available on their website to calculate the amount of increase on property tax bills. Sirk encouraged the public to attend meetings he will be holding to explain the need for this Referendum, which will be held on Monday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Union Township Hall, and again on Monday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at Preble Firemen's Park.

Dyer made a motion to approve and sign the Cost Reimbursement Contract with Wightman Petrie, Inc. for Pre-Engineering Report (PER) for the demolition of the former Street Department Garage building, costing \$6,000 to be paid from the CCD fund. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A circus will be held behind Riverside Center on May 9th from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dyer made a motion to close Jackson Street, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board of Public Works & Safety members approved the lowest quote of \$14,725.50 from Hitchcock Concrete to replace the concrete floor at the fire station, with approval from council to pay for this project from the CCI fund. Engle made a motion to approve using the CCI fund for this improvement, Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board of Public Works & Safety members approved the quote of \$21,330.00 from Limberlost Construction to refurbish the doors and windows on the train depot on 7th Street, with approval from council to pay for this project from the CCD fund. Engle made a motion to approve paying for this project from the CCD fund, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mayor Schultz commented that in making these improvements this will help market the building again.

Jeremy Gilbert, Street Commissioner reported the scoring of consulting firms was done at the April 5th Board of Public Works & Safety meeting. Gilbert received confirmation from INDOT, and GAI Consultants, Inc. received the highest scoring, so negotiations will begin for the street sign replacement project. GAI Consultants will attend the next council meeting on May 3rd to have paperwork signed.

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

There being no further business, Dyer made a motion for adjournment. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.