

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 3, 2008

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, June 3, 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 emailed the minutes from the May 20th council meeting. With no addition or corrections, Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as received. Cook seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

The Mayor announced this was a Public Hearing for the proposed sewer rates and charges for the consideration of adoption of Ordinance No. 2008-4. Don Kitson, Treasurer of the Oakwood Community Association, along with three (3) residents from Oakwood addition were present to address council with several questions. Kitson the spokesperson for the group had concerns with the flat monthly sewage charge of \$81.35 per month, and also the debt service charge between inside city limits and outside city limits. Kitson questioned how these amounts were calculated. Kitson explained that sewer lines were replaced a couple of years ago, at the owners expense. Kitson wanted to know if it would help if these homes were metered. Jeff Rowe of Umbaugh was present to answer these questions. Rowe explained the non-metered charges were established prior to 1973, it was figured on 8,000 per gallon, 50% being surcharge. Rowe was uncertain how the city determined this amount, but showed that any rate and charge increases were figured on the same percentage whether inside city limits or outside the city. The Mayor reported all communities are being mandated to make these improvements. Oakwood residents are encouraged to purchase a meter, to determine their usage, but should be aware they could pay more depending on their usage. It was also brought up by Jim Newton, resident of Oakwood whether the city would take into consideration the residents maintaining the sewer lines. Councilman Cook informed Mr. Newton that the additional charges are not for maintaining the sewer lines, but for treatment of the sewage and the lift station. Jeff Lengerich another Oakwood resident would like to know why there is such a large difference between the inside rates and outside rates. Jeff Rowe mentioned that Umbaugh could be hired to address the outside rates. Mayor Schultz asked for any further comments, there were no more comments.

Dyer made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing, Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor re-adjourned the meeting for a motion to make the Proof of Publication for the Public Hearing a matter of record. Engle made the motion to make the Proof of Publication a matter of record. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cook made a motion to make the mailings to the rate payers of the Public Hearing a matter of record. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dyer made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing, Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilman Ken Meyer motioned to Place the Ordinance on Third Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Councilman Matt Dyer and passed by consent.

City Attorney, Tim Baker then read the sewer rates and charges Ordinance No. 2008-4 by short title, an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1995-8, and Ordinance No. 2004-6 of the City of Decatur to help fund the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project Phase II. Councilman Meyer made a motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 2008-4 on Third Reading. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dyer, and on call of the roll was carried by the following vote:

Ayes:	Nays:
Charles Cook	None
Bill Crone	
Matt Dyer	
Barb Engle	
Ken Meyer	

Mayor Schultz announced that the motion for adoption was carried and that Ordinance No. 2008-4 had been duly passed and adopted.

Council discussed whether to hire Umbaugh to do a rate study on outside flat sewer rate charges. The Oakwood residents were in favor of the study. The Mayor informed the residents that the study is only for outside sewer rates, which may show a decrease or an increase depending on the usage. The new rates will take effect, July 1st. Councilman Dyer encouraged residents to purchase meters, then made a motion to hire Umbaugh to do a special rate study for outside sewer rates. Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fire Chief, Les Marckel, explained to council his need for an additional appropriation to purchase a 2002 Yukon to replace the 1996 Suburban, due to numerous repairs. Marckel explained he will receive \$3,000 in trade-in value, and can transfer monies from different accounts to pay for the majority of the vehicle, but will need an additional \$6,800. Engle made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2008-4, and additional appropriation of \$6,800 from the general fund to the fire departments machinery and equipment account. Cook seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous. The Clerk-Treasurer will forward the proper paperwork to the Department of Local Government Finance for their approval.

The Mayor then read Resolution No. 2008-5, a resolution authorizing to transfer within the Fire Departments budget \$3,545.00 from 101-205-436 repairs and maintenance to 101-205-444 machinery and equipment, and also transfer \$3,700.00 from 101-205-449 other capital outlays to machinery and equipment. Engle made a motion for the Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to transfer these sums within the Fire Department's budget. Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor announced Police Sergeant Don Thomas will be retiring after working 31 years for the Police Department on June 8th. The mayor thanked Thomas for his many years of service.

Fire Chief, Les Marckel reported \$2,500 was donated to the Hoosier Burn Camp from the Fire Department Annual Golf Outing. Marckel also reported his department is doing rope training this week in various locations in the city.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert reported the State Highway has been contacted and will do total reconstruction on 13th Street railroad tracks within 30 to 45 days.

To answer Councilman Dyer's question from the previous meeting about a dilapidated home on 8th St., Roger Gage, Building Supt. explained it takes about a year before condemnation since you must go through the nuisance process first and then the City Attorney will need to file all the proper paperwork.

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. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.