

CITY OF DECATUR  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY MINUTES  
JUNE 7, 2011

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety met on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers. Members present were Mayor John Schultz, 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 May 17th meeting. There were no corrections or amendments. Karbach made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Karbach made a motion to sign and approve the agreement for posting of six (6) Decatur City Ordinance 1988-21 signs at General Electric Co. located at 500 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

City Attorney, Tim Baker reported he has not heard back from Adams County Prosecutor, Chris Harvey on the Double Eagle incident involving Sergeant Chris Brite. At the March 1<sup>st</sup> Board of Works meeting, the Board members agreed not to review any reports pertaining to this incident until the City Attorney receives more information from the Prosecutor's office whether the other individual in this incident was charged with any criminal crime. Not to delay the process any longer, by consensus, the Board of Works members will hold an Executive Session to review all the facts and circumstances received from the State Police and the Decatur Police reports on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers. The Mayor also invited the Council members to attend the Executive Session. The Clerk-Treasurer will post the meeting at least 48 hours before the meeting in City Hall, and notify the newspaper.

The Mayor reported Asst. Fire Chief, Jim Hitchcock received quotes on replacing 65 flags downtown. Board of Works member, Ken Meyer will also check on prices.

David Martin, Seth Haines, and Paul Ruble, representing Can-Do Media, LLC explained their business of supplying trash containers with advertising. The cost for these containers with advertising is \$144 annually per container. These containers are manufactured locally. Any vandalism to the containers is their responsibility. Members were not in favor of having the containers downtown. It was suggested possibly using the containers during special events, such as, the car show, fireworks, flea market, and other shopping areas or in the parks. The representatives from Can-Do Media were directed to schedule a meeting with the Mayor and Parks & Recreation Supt., Steve Krull, to see if he's agreeable to having the containers in the parks and other events.

Mayor Schultz announced Josh Krueckeberg and Dan Evans recently purchased the bowling alley property. Krueckeberg contacted the Mayor to see if there is any tax abatement available. City Attorney, Tim Baker explained that abatements are typically for industrial development and not for recreational purposes.

Board of Works member, Bill Karbach gave an update on Operation Cleanup. Karbach has cited 30 yards for rubbish. Karbach will be giving residents an option of being charged \$200 per day or pay the City to clean up the property and bill the property owner.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler reported the cost of replacing the city's defibrillators. Ketzler received a quote from Zoll, which is half the cost of the current brand. Ketzler will check to see if Zoll will take the city's current heart defibrillators on trade and report back at the next Board of Works meeting.

Ketzler informed the Board of Works members he has six people interested in the Police Detective position. The Board of Works members will interview applicants in July.

Ketzler requested permission to purchase two taser guns for his department. Ketzler explained there were three major incidents recently where a taser gun would have been helpful. Ketzler will have all his officers trained, but only purchase two guns. The guns cost approximately \$1,000 each, but would apply for a grant to pay for the guns. Karbach made a motion to give Ketzler permission to proceed to apply for a grant to purchase the guns, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert reported within about two weeks the preliminary engineering will begin for the sign replacement grant. Gilbert handed out an example of an informational sign for members to decide whether or not they would like this type of sign. Gilbert also asked if the Welcome to Decatur signs needed to be changed. The mayor informed Gilbert to remove the sesquicentennial and add the year established in 1836. By consensus, the color of the sign will remain white with green letters. It was also suggested to replace and relocated the club/organization signs.

Fire Chief, Les Marckel requested to replace breathing air bottles that have reached their life span of 15 years. Marckel has these items budgeted in the fire departments budget for 2011. The cost of replacing 10 air bottles is approximately \$6,500 plus shipping. Meyer made a motion to approve the expenditure. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The City Attorney informed the Board of Works members that he was notified by the Decatur Building Department that they have been receiving complaints about a city resident, Karen Cook running a business from her home in Oak Grove addition. Building Supt., Roger Gage remarked that Cook has been notified of the zoning ordinance and will need to go through the Board of Zoning Appeals to get the business approved.

The City Attorney, Tim Baker was also notified of Melissa Hitchcock being cited for a nuisance at 601 Indiana Street. Board of Works member, Bill Karbach informed Baker that this property has been cleaned up.

The City Attorney informed the Board of Works members that the Mayor received a letter from Mark Bloom of Beckman Lawson representing former employee, Joel Christian who is requesting unpaid overtime wages during his employment with the Parks Department and the Fire Department from 2008, 2009 and 2010. The Clerk-Treasurer, along with the Parks Supt., and the Fire Chief has reviewed Christian's time records and responded back to Bloom's letter.

Council members directed the City Attorney at the May 17<sup>th</sup> council meeting to prepare a resolution expressing an interest in purchasing the property located at 215 W. Monroe Street and 167 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The City Attorney, Tim Baker prepared a resolution, which authorizes the Mayor as the purchasing agent and directs the Mayor to obtain two written appraisals of the real estate. Baker explained the appraisals must be completed by a professional or a licensed appraiser. The average of the two appraisals is the maximum amount the City can offer to purchase the property. Karbach made a motion to approve the Mayor as the purchasing agent. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Resolution will be presented at the Council meeting for Council member's approval.

Mayor Schultz announced Todd Samuelson from H.J. Umbaugh & Associates will attend the next Board of Works meeting to explain funding options for the City/County building project.

There being no further business, Karbach made a motion for adjournment. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.