

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 7, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, July 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 Mayor invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from June 16th Council meeting. There were no corrections or amendments offered, so Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed, Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Macklin, Executive Director of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation was present to give an update on the Fleetwood Plants. The sale of Fleetwood to American Industrial Partners (AIP) has not been completed, and final decisions on manufacturing are not complete. AIP could create hundreds of jobs in Decatur. Macklin commented Decatur is in competition with other communities, would like to see AIP locate here. \$15 million in equipment would be brought to Decatur and be eligible for tax abatement. Mark Soltys AIP's consultant commented on the local incentives to bring AIP to Decatur by granting ten year abatement could create and retain jobs, good paying jobs for Decatur. Steve Heim reported he has worked for Fleetwood for 25 years, and appreciates the good work ethics of the people in Decatur, and would encourage council members to consider the Declaratory Resolution. Attorney, DuWayne Herman representing AIP handed out an application for Economic Revitalization Area Designation, along with a Declaratory Resolution. AIP/RV, Inc. is requesting that the Common Council of the City of Decatur to designate areas located at 1031 US Highway 224 E, 1010 Commerce Drive, 1803 Winchester Street, and 1410 Patterson Street an Economic Revitalization Area. AIP/RV, Inc. submits this application for additional manufacturing equipment valued at approximately \$15 million to meet ongoing changes in the recreational vehicle industry; the abatement is for personal property and building improvements and new manufacturing equipment for ten (10) years instead of five (5) years due to extraordinary times. This resolution is for four (4) Fleetwood RV Plants only, with potential abatement for Gold Shield in the future. Councilman Meyer commented this company would also help other local vendors, such as Alberding Woodworking, and Habegger Flooring. Engle made a motion to approve adopting Resolution No. 2009-1, Crone seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

Meyer also made a motion to approve the future abatement for Gold Shield for additional equipment if relocated to Decatur, Cook seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

Ron Storey, Tom Lehman, Larry Isch, Rex Hinsky, and Bill Karbach were present to inform council of their recommendation on selecting a firm for the Comprehensive Plan for Decatur. The committee received seven (7) qualifications, interviewed four (4) of the firms and recommends hiring Wightman Petrie, Inc. Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) will apply for a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 to hire the firm. The Mayor then asked for permission to meet with the firm to negotiate a

contract to determine the scope of work and a price. Dyer made a motion to grant the Mayor permission to meet with the firm, Engle seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

The Mayor announced the Deputy Police Chief, Greg Cook has researched the law on restricting golf carts driven on streets. There were several city residents present inquiring about the new State law that went into effect on July 1st. Cook informed everyone if the city doesn't have a local ordinance, then the city must go by State law. Council will need to decide whether or not they want a local ordinance and if they do, what should be required in the ordinance. Cook commented even if the city passes a local ordinance, the State still requires anyone driving a golf cart to have a valid driver's license. Bob Brown and Jack Tussing commented that people with disabilities can't get a driver's license. Larry Isch questioned whether the Woodcrest trail would be restricted. Isch was informed the new law doesn't pertain to private trails. Randy Colclasure questioned restrictions on utility vehicles. Colclasure was informed utility vehicles are not considered a golf cart. Gary Meyer and Don York would encourage an age limit for driving golf carts. Jim Coyne, Bob Brown and Art Ehinger requested not to include seat belts as a requirement. Brice Hoffman who sells golf carts volunteered to help put together a local ordinance. The Mayor read a couple of ordinances from other cities, and agreed the city needs to have a local ordinance, but needs to get more information. The Mayor instructed the Deputy Police Chief, Greg Cook to research what is required. Councilman Dyer also suggested anyone with comments can also email the council members by using the Decatur website at www.decaturn.org. The City Attorney also encouraged anyone to contact State Rep., Matt Lehman, and State Senator, Travis Holdman with their concerns.

The Mayor requested calling a Special Council Meeting to discuss the 2010 budget and the golf cart issues on Tuesday, July 14th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers. Cook made a motion to hold a special meeting, Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor announced the Motor Home RV Rally will take place on July 13 through July 18th here in Decatur.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert reported INDOT is recommending the city to remove wires from the top of poles on 2nd and Monroe Street and also to raise the pole on 5th and Monroe Street for the traffic signals due to safety issues. Gilbert received a quote from Rorick Electric in the amount of \$3,300.00. Dyer made a motion to allow the expenditure, Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried. This will be paid from the council repairs and maintenance account.

Fire Chief, Les Marckel reported he will be receiving the State ID numbers for the new fire radio equipment at the end of July and then have training on the new radio equipment by the end of July or mid August.

Storm Water Manager, Joan Eichhorn reported she has hired a surveying firm to look at alleviating the flooding in Homestead, a suggestion was to put in a dry detention pond, if this is done the Parks & Recreation Department would maintain the detention pond. This was only a suggestion from the surveyor, very preliminary plans at this time.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert reported Dave's Excavating will be back on Friday or Monday to fix the settling issues on 2nd and Jackson Street and 1st and Marshall Street from the CSO project, and 3 Rivers Barricade will be doing the pavement markings. Gilbert reported improvements for curbs and sidewalks on Winchester Road were done by Primco and Hitchcock Concrete. Gilbert also reported the

grinder is at the compost site, anyone wanting a load of mulch should contact the Street Department at 724-3356.

Parks & Recreation Supt., Steve Krull announced the Park Board will meet on Monday, July 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Riverside Center to make a decision on whether or not to install a boat launch at Kekionga Lake. Krull also reported he has received a number of calls about owners not cleaning up after their dogs in the parks and around the courthouse, updating the city ordinance was suggested.

John Mahlan a resident of Homestead commented about the retention pond the Storm Water Manager mentioned. Mahlan was concerned who would spray for mosquitoes and wanted someone to check to see if it is allowed to build anything in the park area. Eichhorn and the Mayor informed Mahlan plans for a retention pond was only a suggestion, the plans to alleviate the flooding is only preliminary plans. The Mayor stated he would check into any deed restrictions on Homestead properties.

John Mahlan and Aleta Coyne both Homestead residents are upset on which side of the road to put their tree limbs, leaves and grass clippings. Coyne commented it took three weeks for the city to pick up her leaves. Councilman Cook informed them they should have it out the same day as when the city picks up their trash. The Mayor commented residents must take into account the weather and the time to pick up leaves. Coyne made a comment about the city dictating to the residents in Homestead instead of communicating. Coyne remarked when the residents put the leaves in the Park they were picked up quicker than if she put them on her side of the street. The Mayor informed Coyne and Mahlan the city went door to door with a letter that stated the residents need to move limbs and leaves and grass clippings from the park side and should be placed in front of their property before the city will pick them up. The Mayor even offered to help move the debris from the park to the front of their property. Mahlan frustrated left the meeting. Coyne continued arguing that she can't trust the city picking up the debris if it's on her side of the street. Coyne was instructed when she moves the debris over to her side of the street someone will be out to pick it up. Councilwoman Engle had the Mayor move to the agenda. Several city residents, Tom Lahmon, Jan Smith and Bob Adams commented on what a privilege it is for the city to pick up tree limbs and leaves.

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

There being no further business, Crone made a motion for adjournment. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.