

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, August 4, 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 July 21st Council meeting. There were no corrections or amendments offered, so Cook made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed, Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer received from Sharon Tester, of the Adams County Council on Aging a letter and information on donations and expenditures as requested by the Council members from the previous meeting. The council members are to review this information and then make a decision on the amount to donate for 2010 at the next council meeting on August 18th.

The Clerk-Treasurer had prepared a salary ordinance for the year 2010. Council members previously approved no pay raises in 2010 for city employees. Wages in the salary ordinance will remain the same from 2009 to 2010. There were no comments, so Meyer motioned to Place Ordinance No. 2009-7 on First Reading by short title only. Motion seconded by Crone and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance No. 2009-7 on First Reading. Cook seconded the motion. The roll call was five (5) members voting in favor and none against.

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

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance No. 2009-7 on Second Reading. Dyer seconded the motion. The roll call was five (5) members voting in favor and none against.

Meyer made a motion to Table Ordinance No. 2009-7 until the next Common Council meeting on August 18th, seconded by Cook. All Council members were in favor. Motion carried.

The Mayor received a request for street closing for a sidewalk sale during the Kekionga Festival on Madison Street between 1st and 2nd Streets from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dyer made a motion to approve the street closing, Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next was the Final Reading for Ordinance No. 2009-4, an ordinance vacating a platted street described as Studabaker Street which runs east-west between Lot No. 25 and 26 between the properties of John Garwood owner of the northern half, and Lorenzo and Rosa Martinez, owner of the south half of the vacated street. There were no questions or comments, so Meyer motioned to Place the Ordinance on Third Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Cook and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Adopt Ordinance No. 2009-4, seconded by Cook. Roll call for Adoption of Ordinance No. 2009-4 was Cook, Crone, Dyer, Engle and Meyer in favor and none opposed.

The City Attorney, Tim Baker prepared an ordinance, which was requested by council members at the previous meeting to amend rates charged for city waste disposal services and modify heavy trash services. Due to increase in costs relating to heavy trash services and decreases in tax revenues due to the State's efforts to provide property tax relief, the city can no longer provide the same level of waste disposal services. Council agreed at the previous meeting to eliminate the number of times per year for heavy trash collection from four (4) times a year to two (2) times a year in April and September. The Mayor opened the meeting for any discussion. There were no comments received from the public. Councilwoman Engle suggested adding to the ordinance; heavy trash will be picked up the first full week in April and September. This ordinance also includes increasing the monthly user fee for regular trash collection to cover the actual cost of providing waste disposal services from \$4 per month to \$12 per month, which will be collected on utility bills beginning September 1, 2009. This charge will be imposed to all city residents across the board. The Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert informed Board of Works and Council members at the Board of Works meeting that the city is collecting trash from some customers who are not included in the city ordinance to receive trash services, but is being charged the minimum fee. The Street Commissioner was instructed to prepare a list of customers that are receiving these services, so council can review this list and make a decision whether or not these services should be provided. By consensus, council approved to increase the services to be effective on October 1, 2009 instead of September 1, 2009 to allow them time to review the list of customers receiving these services. The Mayor encourages any feedback from the public before any action is taken at the next meeting.

On July 21, 2009, Council adopted Ordinance No. 2009-6, which authorizes and regulates the use of golf carts on the streets of Decatur. This ordinance was published in the Decatur Daily Democrat on August 3, 2009. Meyer made a motion to make the proof of publication a matter of record. Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor reported INDOT will close US Highway 224 from August 10 thru August 14 for maintenance to the Highway east of Decatur.

Dyer made a motion to approve the Contract with Wightman Petrie, Inc. for the Comprehensive Plan subject to the grant award with IOCRA. Engle seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

The Mayor announced Ordinance No. 2009-5, amending the fee for fire hydrant rental to the city, which was read and passed on First and Second Reading at the last meeting was informed that a public hearing will need to be held before adoption, since the ordinance is amending a rate. A public hearing will be advertised for the September 1st council meeting for final reading and adoption of the ordinance.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler reported the police department has registered 14 golf carts.

Wastewater Supt., Anne Butcher reported all construction for the sewer projects are now completed.

Councilman Meyer commented on the success of the Farmer's Market downtown. Meyer was concerned whether or not to close Madison Street for safety reason during this event. The Police Chief was instructed to work with the Chamber of Commerce on this matter.

The Clerk-Treasurer announced the 2010 budget will be published on Tuesday, August 25 and again on Tuesday, September 1 in the Decatur Daily Democrat. The public hearing on the 2010 budget will be at the council meeting on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, and final adoption to be on Tuesday, October 6th. Both the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer informed council due to revenue estimates from the County Auditor, there could be more cuts to the budget. The Mayor mentioned eliminating the Decatur Dollars given to employees as a bonus, and the annual City Christmas party. Council made no action at this time.

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

There being no further business, Dyer made a motion for adjournment. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.