

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 5, 2008

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, August 5, 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. Also present was City Attorney, Tim Baker.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the July 15th council meeting. There were no additions or corrections offered so Cook made a motion to approve the minutes as received. Engle seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

The 2009 Salary Ordinance which includes a 3% increase or \$900 year minimum raise was passed on First and Second Reading at the last council meeting. There were no 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 2008-6, seconded by Engle. Roll call for Adoption of Ordinance 2008-6 was Cook, Crone, Dyer, Engle, and Meyer in favor and none opposed.

A request from the Fall Fest Committee of St. Mary of the Assumption Church is requesting to close 5th Street from Monroe Street to Madison and Madison Street from 4th to 5th Street during their annual Fall Fest from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21st. Engle made a motion to approve the street closings. Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Decatur Plan Commission approved on July 15, 2008 rezoning real estate owned by Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend, Inc., by St. Mary's Church located between 3rd and 4th Street and Monroe and Madison Street, Lots 90, 91, 121, 122 and 123 be rezoned from R-2 and B-2 to B-2. The Decatur Plan Commission does now and hereby certify such action to the Common Council the Petition, and the proposed Amendatory Ordinance to be adopted. Engle made a motion to make the certificate a matter of record. Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Attorney, Tim Baker then presented Ordinance No. 2008-7, an Ordinance amending Chapter 150 of the City Code of 1978 regarding rezoning of real property. Meyer motioned to Place the Ordinance on First Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Engle and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2008-7 on First Reading. Engle 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 Engle and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2008-7 on Second Reading. Engle seconded the motion. The roll call was five (5) members voting in favor and none against.

Meyer then motioned to suspend the rules and Place the Ordinance on Third Reading. Motion was seconded by Engle and passed unanimously.

Meyer motioned to Adopt Ordinance 2008-7. Engle seconded the motion. Roll call for Adoption of Ordinance 2008-7 was Cook, Crone, Dyer, Engle and Meyer in favor and none opposed.

The Mayor and Council Members went through each departmental proposed budget for 2009, and made cuts to the budgets trying to keep the total of all budgets at 4% above 2008's budget. The budgets were cut over \$300,000.00, which ended up being around 5% increase from this year's budget. The total proposed budget is approximately \$6.3 million. The Mayor suggested keeping the budget a little bit higher than the 4%, since once the budgets are advertised you can lower the budget, but you can't raise the budget. The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright will prepare the proposed budget with the Mayor's and Council Members changes, and submit the proposed budget to County Council for their review. The budgets will be advertised two (2) times on August 20th and again on August 27th. A public hearing for the 2009 proposed budgets will be held at City Hall in Council Chambers on September 2, and Final Passage to be September 16th.

Two large items were cut from the Fire Department's budget, \$190,000.00 for a tanker, and \$32,000.00 for a 6000 PSI Compressor.

To help lower the 2009 budget, the amount budgeted for a sanitation truck chassis was removed from the Sanitation Department's budget and will be paid out of this year's budget from the Riverboat Revenue Sharing Fund. All council members were in favor of this, so the Street Commissioner was instructed to advertise for bids for the chassis. Once the bids are received then a resolution will be prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer for an additional appropriation to use the Riverboat Revenue Sharing Fund.

Another change was to remove the \$25,000.00 budgeted in the MVH-Street Fund for improvements to the buildings at the street garage on Elm Street. By consensus, Council members approved this to be from the CCD fund in 2009.

The Mayor commented that the State is supposedly going to fund the Police and Fire Pension Fund's, but the Clerk-Treasurer was instructed by the DLGF to prepare the budgets as in prior years. The Mayor also remarked that with the tax caps next year there may be more cuts to personnel, employee benefits, and services.

The Mayor announced he will meet with INDOT next week to discuss the repairs to the railroad crossing on 13th Street.

The Mayor reported the meeting with OCRA was well attended, a public meeting will be held on Thursday, August 7th at Riverside Center at 7:30 p.m. to discuss Downtown Revitalization.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert reported yard waste, debris and other miscellaneous items are being left on city property on 7th & 8th Street and also in Homestead. The Police Chief, Ken Ketzler will police these areas.

Councilman Bill Crone thanked Barker & Sons Wrecker Service for donating their crane and labor to rewire the tornado siren at the police station.

Jim Inskeep, Water Supt., reported the North Water Tower refurbishing is now complete.

The Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer, and the Utilities Auditor will meet with Jeff Rowe of Umbaugh on Monday, August 18th to review the outside sewer rate study.

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

There being no further business, Engle made a motion for adjournment. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.