

CITY OF DECATUR  
SPECIAL MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
AUGUST 25, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 6:00 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 meeting was properly posted and faxed to the Decatur Daily Democrat and The Journal Gazette.

Cook made a motion to suspend approving the minutes from the previous meeting until the next regularly scheduled Common Council meeting on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The City Attorney prepared a Resolution establishing a drug free work place policy for the City of Decatur for the purpose of providing a safe working environment for City employees. This is a requirement for Decatur's Comprehensive Plan. The City Attorney commented the City's current policy manual does include a drug free work place but this resolution is more in depth. This resolution was patterned after a draft supplied by Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council grant administrator, Matt Vondran. There were no comments received, so Meyer made a motion to introduce Resolution No. 2009-4, Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried. The City Attorney read Resolution No. 2009-4 by short title only. Meyer made a motion to adopt the Resolution, Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

As a requirement for Decatur's Comprehensive Plan, the City Attorney prepared an Ordinance which prohibits Housing Discrimination within the City of Decatur. There were no comments, so Meyer motioned to Place Ordinance No. 2009-8 on First Reading by short title only. Motion seconded by Dyer and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance No. 2009-8 on First Reading. Dyer 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 Cook and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance No. 2009-8 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 suspend the rules and Place Ordinance No. 2009-8 on Third Reading by short title only, so the ordinance can be submitted with the grant application. Motion was seconded by Dyer and passed by consent.

Meyer made a motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 2009-8, Cook seconded the motion. The roll call was Cook, Crone, Dyer, Engle and Meyer voting in favor and none opposed.

Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) grant administrator, Matt Vondran was handed the Resolution and the Ordinance to submit with the grant application for Decatur's Comprehensive Plan.

The Mayor remarked due to property tax reform the city needs to increase the charge for trash collections. Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert supplied the council members with a list of customers receiving the service. The Mayor opened the meeting for any comments from the public, comments received were from city resident, Ted Wemhoff wanting to be educated on why other places like schools and churches are receiving trash collection services. Gilbert remarked these services have been provided to these customers for many years, not sure how it was determined at that time. Another city resident, JoAnn Roth questioned if the water and sewer rates will also go up. The Mayor informed Roth that Umbaugh & Associates is currently working on a rate study, which shows rates will be increased. Roth also questioned how the cost is determined. Gilbert commented the \$4 that is currently being charged doesn't cover the disposal fee. Councilman Cook explained if the city were to bid out this service to a contractor, the City would no longer have control, and if the City would want to provide the service again, the City would be required to bid against the contractor, which may be difficult to outbid the contractor. Larry Bultemeier remarked by the City increasing the trash fee this could cause some of his rental property owners to give up their housing. The Mayor remarked the City will have to raise fees or no longer supply the service, due to the property tax reform, which has caused a loss in revenues to the City. The Mayor and Council members then went through the list of customers supplied by the Street Commissioner and made suggestions and comments. By consensus, the Street Commissioner was instructed to use the same formula as used before to refigure the amounts charged for schools and to charge per volume. The Mayor requested the City Attorney to include accredited school when preparing the ordinance. The list showed duplexes only being charged \$4.00. This will be changed in the ordinance to be considered two (2) dwellings. The Street Commissioner was instructed to supply the council a list of houses that have been converted to apartments. By consensus, the number of units for an apartment and/or duplex was changed to five (5) and to be charged the minimum rate for each apartment in a building. Other governmental entities are receiving trash collection services, but not being charged. It was decided to begin charging them accordingly. By consensus, businesses will not receive trash collection services. A list of out of town residents who are on the city/county line are currently receiving trash collection services, but are being charged the minimum rate of \$4 a month. By consensus, a surcharge will be charged since they are not in the city limits. After the lengthy discussion, council instructed the Street Commissioner, the City Attorney, and the Mayor to go over the rates and categories and draft an ordinance for the council members to review.

Ted Wemhoff questioned why residents are not being ticketed when they leave items out that aren't allowed for heavy trash pickup. The Mayor informed Wemhoff he needs to report it, and sometimes is difficult to reach the property owner, but he should call the city with any concerns.

Street Commissioner informed council that several trash cans downtown have been damaged, he suggested purchasing a different type of trash can and passed out a flyer for the council members to review. No action was taken at this time.

There being no further business, Meyer made a motion for adjournment. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.