

CITY OF DECATUR
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety met on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers. Members present were Mayor John Schultz and 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 September 1st. There were no corrections or amendments offered, so Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed, Karbach seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

Wastewater Supt., Anne Butcher requested taking bids to sell three (3) items the Wastewater Department is no longer using, a 1981 International Dump Truck, 1975 Jet Sprayer, and a 1991 Field Spreader. Meyer made a motion to approve selling these items, Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bids will be requested and advertised in the Decatur Daily Democrat for these items at the October 6th Board of Works meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported the response from Downey Insurance in regards to the liability issue if a contractor would cut an underground street light wire, which was discussed at the August 18th Board of Works meeting. The response from EMC insurance reads: All EMC can suggest is that the City check with their attorney regarding liability. There are many variables such as who did the initial survey, and who drew the plans the contractor checked, who was responsible for checking the plans for accuracy. EMC will still defend the city regardless of fault. Karbach made a motion to make the response from the insurance company a matter of record. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council members, Cook, Crone, Dyer and Engle attended the Board of Works meeting.

The Mayor was contacted by Carla Grote who would like the council members to contact council's appointed school board members, and encourage them to have an elected school board. The council members do not have the authority to do this.

Parks & Recreation Supt., Steve Krull requested no parking in the cul-de-sac on Meadow Lane due to DNR installing a new boat launch. Krull commented a new parking area will be added once the boat launch is in. Board member, Bill Karbach is currently making amendments to the parking ordinance, by consensus; no parking in the cul-de-sac on Meadow Lane will be addressed in the parking ordinance.

Steve Krull reported two (2) Park Board members are collecting donations to make improvements to the Legion Park. They are anticipating doing this project in four phases, costing approximately \$55,000. Krull will discuss with the Clerk-Treasurer on how these monies will be handled.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert is looking to see if it is feasible to have angle parking downtown to allow more parking spaces. Councilman Crone also requested Gilbert to check on lowering the speed limit on Monroe Street. Gilbert will report back at a future meeting.

Parks & Recreation Supt., Steve Krull and Leisure Services Director, Chris Krull was present to answer questions from an email that was sent to council members concerning their department. Council was given an explanation, no action was taken.

The Mayor received a request from the Small Business Association requesting financial help to pay the electric bill estimated to be \$160.00 for Christmas tree lighting at the Courthouse. No action was taken at this time.

A request from September 1st Council meeting for the Wastewater Supt. to increase pay rates for three (3) employees was brought back to the Board of Works members for discussion. The City Attorney researched who has the authority to increase pay for employees. According to the City of Decatur Policy Manual it doesn't give clear direction of who has the authority. The salary ordinance has classifications, but benchmarks do not have classifications. Anne Butcher, Wastewater Supt., commented when the firm was hired, benchmarks were kept in general, and the classifications were used for a step up. The City Attorney stated IC 36-4-3 reads the Mayor fixes the pay for all employees except Police and Fire. Council can reduce the amounts in the salary ordinance, once council adopts the salary ordinance, the Mayor can reduce or increase the pay in the current budget year. Department Heads do not have authority to change pay or change classification. The Mayor approved the pay increase for the two (2) plant operators as presented, but declined the request for the part-time laborer to be changed to a lab tech, and the pay rate to remain the same.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler received a quote to upgrade his computer server at the police department from Alternative Business Solutions (ABS) was \$7,833.00. Ketzler commented the quote he received from Harland had expired, but received a new quote, which was still lower than ABS. The new quote from Harland was \$7,288.00. Ketzler also requested a quote from Computer Age Technologies, but never received a response. Meyer made a motion to accept the quote from Harland Technology Services, Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried. This will be paid from the CCI fund.

Discussed was whether or not to have a City Christmas Party and give Decatur Dollars to the employees this year. Council members will make a decision at the council meeting.

There being no further business, Meyer made a motion for adjournment. Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.