

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, September 15, 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 September 1st 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.

Cook made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2010 budget, Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The public hearing and budget estimates were advertised and made a matter of record at the September 1st council meeting.

The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright reported she and the Mayor attended the County Council Budget Review meeting. At the meeting the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer informed County Council the City is aware of being over the maximum levy, but adjustments will be made to be within the levy amount allowed. The Mayor has received a letter that County Council has accepted the City's budget and levy numbers as presented.

The Clerk-Treasurer informed council adjustments to the Common Council budget have been made as requested by council at the August 18th council meeting to change the donation amount to Council on Aging from \$14,500 to \$10,000 for 2010. Also, changed is the amount for hydrant rental from \$260 per hydrant to \$170 per ordinance, total decrease to 2010 Common Council budget \$44,010. The operating balances in the Parks & Recreation, and MVH-Street funds were eliminated as suggested by the DLGF. The General fund operating balance will remain at \$200,000.00 this is the same amount for this year. Whitright explained that even with these changes, the budget is still over the maximum levy by \$630,000, but if we can keep from spending everything that has been appropriated for this year it would help lower the levy amount. Also, by increasing the trash collection fees from \$4 to \$12 per month will give the general fund additional revenue of \$245,000. Whitright informed council when the DLGF works the budget, and if it shows the budget is still over the maximum levy, then DLGF will reduce the 2010 budget, and then at that time the council will have to decide if they want to leave the cuts as is, or make reductions to the current 2009 appropriations. The Clerk-Treasurer asked for any questions. Council members questioned when the city will receive the budget amounts back from DLGF and how long does council have to make the adjustments. Whitright informed council they will have ten (10) days to accept or make the adjustments, and should receive these figures from DLGF sometime in November. There were no comments from the public, so Engle made a motion to close the public hearing, Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer then presented Ordinance No. 2009-9, an ordinance for appropriations and tax rates for the year 2010. The budget proposed totals \$6,578,063, with a levy of \$3,644,213, and proposed tax rate of \$1.09. Meyer motioned to Place the Ordinance on First Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Engle and passed by consent. The City Attorney read the Ordinance by short title.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2009-9 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 Engle and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2009-9 on Second Reading. Engle seconded the motion. The roll call was five (5) members voting in favor and none against.

Meyer motioned to Adopt Ordinance 2009-10. Cook seconded the motion. Roll call for Adoption of Ordinance 2006-11 was Cook, Crone, Dyer, Engle, and Meyer in favor and none opposed.

The Mayor, City Attorney, and the Street Commissioner went through the City Code of Ordinance, Chapter 52, sanitation service and regulations and made changes to what items will be picked up and who will receive the services. Mobile Home Court will be charged \$12 per mobile home occupied or not occupied, and will be adjusted semi-annually. This is a citywide service; residents will be required to pay whether or not trash is collected. Street Commissioner updated the rate codes, and the new rates will go into effect November 1, 2009. Utilities Auditor, Bob Ladd agreed if the ordinance is adopted by October 6th, the increase would be effective for November 1st utility bills. The ordinance also reduces the heavy trash collection to two (2) times a year in April and September. Councilman Dyer commented he would like to see the city have curbside recycling in the future, but not feasible at this time. Councilman Cook remarked if people discontinue recycling items on their own because the city is increasing the cost of trash services, this would only increase what is being taken to the transfer station. There were no other questions, so Meyer motioned to Place the Ordinance on First Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Engle and passed by consent. The City Attorney read the Ordinance by short title.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2009-11 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 Engle and passed by consent.

Meyer motioned to Pass Ordinance 2009-11 on Second Reading. Engle seconded the motion. The roll call was five (5) members voting in favor and none against.

Meyer made a motion to Table Ordinance 2009-11 until the next Common Council meeting on October 6th, seconded by Engle. All Council Members were in favor. Motion carried.

The Mayor questioned council if they wanted to continue the annual City Christmas Party and the Decatur Dollars for employees this year. Councilman Cook remarked he would rather eliminate the party, and continue the Decatur Dollars, since this would be something for the employees and also for the community. Engle made a motion to approve the Decatur Dollars, \$25 for full-time and \$15 for part-time employees. Crone seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous.

The Mayor announced the Department Heads will meet with Umbaugh on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd to continue working on Decatur's Strategic Plan.

The Street Commissioner announced heavy trash is this week.

Travis Alexander presented to the council a list of street closings for the Callithumpian Fireworks and Parade. The Fireworks will be on Saturday, Oct. 24th, and the Parade will be on Monday, Oct. 26th. The Mayor suggested to Alexander to check with the Parks & Recreation Supt., for any conflicts for the fireworks. Dyer made a motion to approve the street closing request, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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. Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.