

CITY OF DECATUR  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY MINUTES  
OCTOBER 4, 2011

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety met on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers. Members present were Mayor John Schultz and Board member 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 20th meeting. There were no corrections or amendments. Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Karbach made a motion to make the legal notices to accept bids for the City of Decatur farm leases a matter of record. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Schultz and Board Member Bill Karbach reviewed and assessed the two (2) City owned properties for the purpose of cash crop farming to be \$150.00 per acre for 450 N with 27.65 tillable acres, and \$150.00 per acre for 600 N with 51.75 tillable acres. Meyer made a motion to make the assessment a matter of record. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Attorney, Tim Baker opened and read aloud the bids received for 450 N and 600 N farm leases. The bids were:

<u>450 N (27.65 tillable acres)</u>	<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Per acre</u>	<u>Annual</u>
	Donald Braun	\$198.35	\$5,484.40
	Jason Steffen	\$226.00	\$6,248.90
	Brent Buchan	\$230.00	\$6,359.50
	Craig Fruechte	\$252.00	\$6,967.80
<u>600 N (51.75 tillable acres)</u>			
	Dan Workinger	\$157.00	\$8,124.75
	Craig Fruechte	\$173.00	\$8,952.75

Karbach made a motion to accept the bid from Craig Fruechte for both the 450 N and the 600 N farm leases. The Clerk-Treasurer will prepare the lease agreements between the City of Decatur and Craig Fruechte to be signed at the next Board of Works meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The leases are for three (3) years beginning December 1, 2011 through November 30, 2014.

City Attorney, Tim Baker is still reviewing the contract with Mediacom to see if Mediacom can discontinue collecting and remitting franchise fees.

The Board of Works members scheduled to meet on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall to review and score the proposals from engineering firms for the East Monroe Street project.

Council members Charlie Cook, Bill Crone, Matt Dyer and Barb Engle attended the Board of Works meeting.

The Mayor announced that there is someone interested in purchasing the former Decatur Casting property. The City Attorney, Tim Baker commented the property cannot be sold until Adams County has a clear title to this property. Board of Works members directed Baker to contact County Attorney, Mark Burry to proceed in getting a clear title for this property.

Karbach made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment for Casey Springer as a Patrolman of the Decatur Police Department a matter of record. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Police Chief, Ken Ketzler announced Springer will attend the Police Academy in January through April 2012.

Mayor Schultz read a letter from Fire Chief, Les Marckel who is requesting approval to fill the vacancy of Joel Christian on the volunteer firefighter roster with Bryan Braun. Braun has passed all the pre-employment requirements, and was unanimously approved by the Fire Departments hiring committee. Meyer made a motion to approve hiring Bryan Braun as a volunteer firefighter. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Coni Mayer, Executive Director of Adams County Community Foundation (ACCF) and Roger Gage, Decatur Building Supt. discussed the train depot donation project. This project is to make interior improvements to the building. Mayer will setup an account for donations, which are tax deductible. Individuals wanting to make donations will be collected by the ACCF. The ACCF will write a check to the City to pay the contractors making the improvements from donations received. Meyer made a motion to sign and approve the contract between the City of Decatur and ACCF. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Attorney, Tim Baker reported the City will need to remove from the City Code of Ordinance book any local ordinances prohibiting firearms, due to new State law effective July 1, 2011. By consensus, Baker was directed to amend the local ordinance Chapter 95.20, and Chapter 130.01.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert handed out a list of 16 City and County right-of-way areas that are in need of maintenance. Mayor Schultz recommended waiting to repair the areas that Adams County Health Department is requiring to connect to the City's sewer system at this time. Gilbert was directed to revise the list with areas that are a priority, and report back at the October 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Works meeting. The City Attorney will check with the Adams County Attorney to see if he will prepare the deeds for these properties.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert also reported Tom Schell a sanitation department employee will be retiring November 1<sup>st</sup> and would like to hire a replacement who will work for both the sanitation department and the street department. Gilbert mentioned the street department will have several employees retiring within the next couple of years, so he would like to hire someone so they can be trained for various duties. The City Attorney recommended a benchmark be prepared for this employee and post a notice of the job opening. Board member, Bill Karbach also recommended adding to the benchmark, any other duties as required. By consensus, the Street Commissioner was given permission to proceed.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert was given approval at the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Works meeting to proceed with purchasing a Bobcat. Gilbert checked on purchasing a used Bobcat, but none were available. Gilbert received two (2) quotes for a new Bobcat, the quotes were from Affolder Implement Sales at \$46,349.00, and the other quote was from Bobcat of Indy at \$54,301.34. The equipment has a three (3) year warranty. Gilbert explained that this equipment can be used for snow removal and for the

Anthony Wayne Project, and can also be useful for the Water Department. Meyer made a motion to approve the purchase and recommends Council approve funding at the Council meeting. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Rickord, Utilities Auditor informed the Board members that there are eight (8) sewage customers who are not paying their sewage bills, who live in Oakwood Addition. Rickord mentioned the last time these residents were delinquent their names were mentioned at the Council meeting and published in the newspaper which prompted these customers to pay their outstanding bills. The Mayor will mention this at the Council meeting.

Rickord also mentioned there are a lot of outstanding utility bills on rental properties. In the past, the City was able to turn these outstanding debts over to the Wells County Credit Bureau who would collect the debt, but now the Credit Bureau is no longer in business. The Mayor suggested he would meet with the landlords of these properties and get their opinion on how to handle this problem.

Utilities Auditor, Dan Rickord informed the Board members that the sewage operating balance is decreasing, due to the last sewage rate increase wasn't enough to cover operating expenses. Rickord suggested raising the sewage rates. City Attorney, Tim Baker commented that a rate study will have to be done in order to raise utility rates. Mayor Schultz will be attending the IACT conference Oct. 10-11, and will inquire on a firm to do a rate study.

Board member, Bill Karbach reported on Operation Cleanup. Karbach mentioned he is working with businesses that have box trucks that are being used as storage, and also car dealers and repair shops who have inoperable vehicles.

There being no further business, Meyer made a motion for adjournment. Karbach seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.