

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 6, 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 15th meeting. There were no corrections or amendments offered, so Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Engle made a motion to make the legal notice for a Public Hearing to amend the ordinance for sanitation services and regulations a matter of record. Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dyer made a motion to open the Public Hearing, Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor asked for any comments from the public. No comments were made, so Crone made a motion to close the public hearing. Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor clarified owners of apartments with five or fewer units have an option to have the city pickup their trash at \$12 per unit, or hire a contractor. It is not a mandatory service for these apartment owners, but it is optional.

Meyer motioned to Place Ordinance 2009-11 on Third Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Dyer and passed by consent.

The City Attorney read the Ordinance by short title only. Meyer motioned to Adopt Ordinance 2009-11, seconded by Dyer. Roll call for Adoption of Ordinance 2009-11 was Cook, Crone, Dyer, Engle, and Meyer in favor and none opposed.

The Mayor announced trash collection increase will go into effect November 1, 2009, and will be added to the utility bill.

The Mayor announced the City has been approved for a \$50,000 Community Focus Fund (CFF) grant for the Comprehensive Plan. Wightman Petrie firm has been hired and will be gathering information for the next 8-10 months.

The Mayor also received a proposal from the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) to perform grant services for the Comprehensive Plan. The fee is not to exceed \$4,000.00. Engle made a motion to approve and sign the proposal with NIRCC, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor also requested approval from council to approve the agreement with OCRA, which will be presented at a future meeting. The Mayor is requesting approval at this time, so as to not slow down

the process. Engle made a motion to approve the agreement with OCRA, Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Mayor happily announced the State Highway Department will be helping with repairs to the railroad crossing on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. A temporary asphalt overlay will be put in, and then permanent repairs will be done in April of 2010.

The Mayor announced Utilities Auditor, Bob Ladd will be retiring after 42 years.

The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright informed Council members she has updated the estimated revenues for 2010 with the Co. Auditor's estimates, and made adjustments to reflect the additional revenues from increases in sanitation fees. The Clerk-Treasurer also explained if the operating balances in the MVH-Street and Parks & Recreation funds are eliminated as suggested by the DLGF, this would also decrease the revenues received from excise and financial institution tax. Whitright requested council permission to keep 5% of the 2010 budget in the operating balance for these two (2) funds, and then leave 10% in the general fund, by doing this the proposed tax levy for the General, MVH-Street and Parks & Recreation funds would be \$3,311,930 with a proposed tax rate of \$1.00. By consensus, council approved the changes, so Meyer motioned to Place Ordinance 2009-9 on Third Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Dyer and passed by consent.

The City Attorney read the Ordinance by short title only. Meyer motioned to Adopt Ordinance 2009-9, seconded by Cook. Roll call for Adoption of Ordinance 2009-9 was Cook, Crone, Dyer, Engle, and Meyer in favor and none opposed.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported the 2010 assessed values may not be available until January 2010.

The Clerk-Treasurer received the new estimated Circuit Breaker Credits from the Legislative Services Agency, which shows the City of Decatur's loss in revenues for 2010 to be \$237,528.

Councilwoman, Engle remarked she was glad to see the re-opening of the Decatur Travel Plaza on 13<sup>th</sup> St.

Councilman Dyer commented he would like more comment from the public before giving his personal opinion on whether to have an elected or appointed school board.

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. Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.