

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2008

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 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.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the October 7th council meeting. There were no additions or corrections offered so Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as received. Meyer seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried.

The Mayor invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dyer made a motion to make the legal notice for the meeting of the Common Council to adopt their previously advertised budget a matter of record. Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright reported due to the information she received from the Adams County Auditor that the Supplemental Homestead deduction granted by the legislature next year shows a loss of Assessed Value to the city of Decatur to be 26.41%, the DLGF suggested the taxing units when calculating the tax rate not to use too high of an AV so enough money can be raised to cover the taxing units expenses. The Clerk-Treasurer informed the council members the only change made to the proposed 2009 budget, is reducing the AV from 80% to 75% of the current AV, so the proposed tax rate for 2009 would be \$1.32 instead of \$1.23. Once we know the Assessed Value for the city, then we'll know what our tax rate will be. The DLGF will give us the opportunity to adjust the budgets, to stay within our maximum levy. The proposed 2009 budget is approximately \$6.6 million. The Clerk-Treasurer asked council if they want to make any changes to the budget. No changes were requested, so Meyer motioned to Place Ordinance No. 2008-8 on Third Reading by short title only. Motion was seconded by Dyer and passed by consent.

The City Attorney read Ordinance No. 2008-8, an Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates by short title. Meyer motioned to Adopt Ordinance 2008-8, seconded by Cook. Roll call for Adoption of Ordinance 2008-8 was Cook, Crone, Dyer, Engle, and Meyer in favor and none opposed.

The Mayor announced an Ordinance to amend the Purchasing Ordinance to correct the base bid bond amount to read 10% of the base bid will be done at the next council meeting.

The Mayor reported INDOT informed him the signal lights on US Highway 27 – 13th Street at the intersection of Washington Street and North 2nd Street have been changed to go off on a set time.

The Mayor received a letter from Mediacom who will be increasing the total Family Cable from \$54.95 per month to \$57.95 per month beginning November 17, 2008 due to cost for programming, fuel and health care and fiber optic network for the upcoming digital transition in February of next year. The Mayor commented the City has a 15 year lease agreement with Mediacom until 2016, which allows the city to receive 3% of the total sales from Mediacom each year.

The Mayor asked the council members if they would like to continue to give Decatur Dollars as an annual gift to the city employees, \$25 for full-time and \$15 for part-time. Councilman Dyer suggested increasing the amount, but the mayor suggested keeping the amount the same, since the budgets may need to be cut next year. Engle made a motion to approve the Decatur Dollars at the same amount. Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert reported there has been damage to the park grounds in Homestead Park and his department will give notice to residents in Homestead addition to place leaves and brush in front of their homes instead of in the park.

The Mayor reminded everyone the next Council meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, November 3rd, due to Election Day.

Anne Butcher, Wastewater Supt. announced her department will smoke test in the Kekionga area on October 29th.

Councilman Dyer read a letter from a local resident wanting something done about the building at the corner of 2nd and Monroe Street owned by Dwayne Skaggs of Bluffton. The Mayor will have the Building Supt., Roger Gage send a letter to Skaggs to see if something can be done.

Engle made a motion to allow the claims as presented. Cook seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Meyer made a motion for adjournment. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.