

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2011

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 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, 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 meeting was called to order by Mayor John Schultz. The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from October 18th meeting. There were no corrections or amendments, so Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler requested to renew an additional year for the School Resource Officer from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. A grant through Safe Schools Healthy Students, which the North Adams Community Schools will administer, will cover the cost of the School Resource Officer's salary. The School Resource Officer's benefits will continue to be paid through the City. Engle made a motion to approve the one (1) year contract renewal. Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Members Ben Faurote, Rex Hinsky, Ron Storey, and Max Miller from the Decatur Redevelopment Commission were present. Larry Isch and Brent Arnold were not able to attend. The Decatur Redevelopment Commission at their meeting had adopted a Declaratory Resolution 2011-1, establishing the Decatur TIF District. City Attorney, Tim Baker explained this does not create additional tax to taxpayers, or removes revenues, but does enhance job creation and funds for economic development. Baker announced the Plan Commission has approved this Declaratory Resolution. Engle made a motion to make the Declaratory Resolution of the Decatur Redevelopment Commission, Resolution No. 2011-1 a matter of record. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Engle also made a motion to make the Decatur Plan Commission Order of Approval of Declaratory Resolution No. 2011-1, establishing the Decatur TIF District a matter of record. Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Decatur Common Council members and the Mayor have seen and inspected Declaratory Resolution No. 2011-1 of the Decatur Redevelopment Commission establishing the Decatur TIF District, and finds that the creation of a TIF District is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Decatur and should be approved for the reasons: 1) to be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, 2) facilitate economic development, 3) expand exiting employment, attract new, permanent job opportunities, and diversify the City's economic base, 4) maintain or enhance property values and increase the City's property tax base, 5) promote and benefit the public health and welfare of the citizens of Decatur. Meyer made a motion to sign and approve the Declaratory Resolution No. 2011-1 to establish the Decatur TIF District. Cook seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous. The Mayor asked for any comments from the public, Redevelopment Commission member, Ron Storey commented that he is very pleased to move forward and appreciates the approval from the Plan Commission, Council and the Mayor. Plan Commission member, Greg Kitson commented that this is a very important tool for the future of Decatur.

Engle made a motion to approve purchasing Decatur Dollars from the Chamber of Commerce for the City employee, \$25.00 for full-time employees, and \$15.00 for part-time employees. Crone seconded the motion. Motion carried. This will be paid from the Common Council budget.

Mayor Schultz announced that on November 7th, contractors will be fixing the railroad crossing on 13th Street. Portion of the street will be closed for the repairs. Repairs should be completed on Saturday, November 19th. The local detour will be Patterson Street, 28th Street and Highway 224.

Amendment to the City Code of Ordinance pertaining to firearms was tabled till the next Council meeting on November 15th.

The City will no longer be collecting grass clippings in bags or containers for this year. Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert announced that grass clippings can be put with leaves along the curb for collection.

The City Attorney, Tim Baker responded to Mediacom's letter on October 25th about discontinuing the City's Franchise Fee. Baker requested that Mediacom reconsider its decision and continue to pay the Franchise Fee through the contract year of 2015. Or at the very least consider paying the Franchise Fee through 2013, at which the economy may improve and the City may be in a better position to absorb the loss of revenue should the Franchise Fee be discontinued in the last two (2) years of the contract. Baker reported that Mediacom did contact him, and agreed to his request of continuing to pay the Franchise Fee to the City through 2013, but then terminate the Franchise Fee for the last two (2) years of the contract. Dyer made a motion to approve the Franchise Fee through 2013. Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Schultz thanked the Callithumpian Committee and the City departments who helped with the Callithumpian Parade.

City resident, Dennis Huffman questioned why his vehicles were being tagged. The Mayor informed him that the owner is given notice 72 hours or more to move the vehicle if it is not licensed or inoperable. If the vehicle is not moved, then it is towed by a local wrecker service. Deputy Police Chief, Greg Cook also informed Huffman that the City is abiding by the local ordinance, not the State law concerning abandoned vehicles. Mayor Schultz suggested to Huffman if he had any further questions to contact him at City Hall.

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. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.