

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, November 3, 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, 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 October 20th meeting. There were no corrections or amendments offered. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes as emailed, Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cities are required to adopt a capital improvement plan specifying the uses of the revenues to be received from CEDIT tax. The estimated revenue for 2010 and 2011 to receive from CEDIT distribution is \$1,000,000.00. The Mayor recommended these projects and cost for the calendar years 2010 and 2011. \$15,000.00 for flood mitigation, this amount was also recommended by Rod Renkenberger from the Maumee River Basin Commission who is the grant administrator for the flood grants the city has received; \$75,000.00 to the Adams County Economic Development Corporation for the planning and implementation of economic development projects. This amount is 13% of the city's CEDIT distribution; \$50,000.00 for the City Sidewalk Program; \$300,000.00 for capital expenditures, this was recommended by H.J. Umbaugh and Associates in their financial report to help the shortfall in the General fund; \$560,000.00 for promotion/development of economic development projects including but not limited to economic incentives, acquisition of real estate and/or infrastructure improvements. Cook made a motion for the Clerk-Treasurer to prepare an ordinance to reflect these changes for the next common council meeting on November 17th. Engle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At the last council meeting, Jeff Rowe from H.J. Umbaugh & Associates presented to the council members the financial report for the city. It was recommended to move fire hydrant rental from the general fund to be collected on the utility bill, costing \$1.60 per resident; raising water utility rates, including payment in lieu of taxes costing the average user \$8.03 per month. Crone made a motion for the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to move the fire hydrant rental fee to the utility bill and raise the water utilities rates to include the payment in lieu of taxes. Dyer seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. Motion carried. Water Supt. Jim Inskeep and Wastewater Supt., Anne Butcher both voiced they were not in favor of including the payment in lieu of taxes on the utility bill. Councilman Crone explained that in order to help with the shortfall in the general fund, this is a method to shift funds. The Mayor commented Indianapolis is forcing the cities to make these changes, due to property tax reform. The ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting on November 17th, and a public hearing will be held on December 1st.

The Mayor thanked Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert and Parks & Recreation Supt., Steve Krull for helping with the improvements to the Boy Scout Cabin.

The Mayor reported he has received many comments from the public in reference to the horse manure on city streets. The Mayor will report back once he contacts the Amish bishops on how to handle this issue.

Police Chief, Ken Ketzler has a drop box in front of the police station for anyone wanting to dispose unwanted medications. The police department will then dispose of these medications properly.

Wastewater Supt., Anne Butcher reported the Wastewater Treatment plant can now produce Class A sludge, which can be used in gardens.

Parks & Recreation Supt., Steve Krull reported his department has started fall tree planting approximately 125-150 trees to replace the ash trees. These trees are being paid from a \$7,500 grant. Krull reported there will be no tree planting in the spring due to the shortfall in the budgets. Krull announced AEP gave a donation of \$2,500 for trail maintenance; any monies left over will go in the tree fund.

Street Commissioner, Jeremy Gilbert reminded everyone for leaf collection, to empty cans and bags in the street along the curb. Fire Chief, Les Marckel reminded the public not to burn leaves in the street.

The Street Commissioner reported the railroad improvements will begin on Monday, November 9th at Washington Street, Nuttman and Dayton. Repairs should be completed at the end of the week.

The Street Commissioner also reported the Street Department will be helping the Chamber of Commerce with putting up and removing Christmas decorations downtown this year, and will do this the evening before Thanksgiving.

City resident, Ted Wemhoff remarked he took offense to the problem with horses, and commented that the city should take care of the dogs. The mayor commented that this problem is hard for the city to enforce.

Councilman Cook thanked the many volunteers who helped with the mock disaster that was held at Adams Central High School.

The new sanitation service and regulation, Ordinance No. 2009-11 was published in the Decatur Daily Democrat on October 23rd. Dyer made a motion to make the legal notice a matter of record. Engle 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. Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.