

CITY OF DECATUR
SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2009

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 5:30 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 Board of Works member, Bill Karbach, City Attorney, Tim Baker and Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright.

The Special Council Meeting was properly posted, and faxed to the Decatur Daily Democrat and The Journal Gazette. Minutes of the previous meeting were suspended.

Copies of the 2010 department budgets were handed out, along with the current 2009 budgets. The only budgets discussed were the budgets supported by property tax revenues.

The City Attorney, Tim Baker explained that the city will receive less revenue in 2010, due to the property tax changes. Also less revenue from interest on investments, less revenue from COIT and property tax will be collected due to the economy. Baker commented the general operating balance is short by approximately \$700,000, by cutting the budgets, it will help to increase the cash balance.

The Mayor commented, by Indianapolis making these changes has caused cities to either eliminate services or increase fees.

Each budget was reviewed with recommendations from Council members in making some reductions, such as the Mayor's promotional account to reduce in half to \$3,500. The Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright explained she decreased some accounts in her budget, but had to increase salaries due to hiring a replacement to learn the duties of the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer who will retire on August 1, 2010. Whitright also mentioned she received a letter today which showed a 7% increase for payroll and budget software, which she will need to increase that item in her budget by \$500. The City Attorney, Tim Baker prepared three different reductions to his budget, one for 6%, 10% and 20%. Council recommended at this time to leave the budget the same as 2009's. The Police Department decreased their budget \$37,910, Fire Dept. reduced their budget by \$24,000. City Hall's budget was decreased by \$1,600. Council recommended removing the Asst. Supt. in the Plan/Bldg Dept., since no one fills this position at this time. The City Attorney mentioned the city may want to consider hiring a city engineer at some point, which this position could be paid from this budget. No decision was made at this time. Council discussed charging more for parking violations, but no changes were made to the Parking Control budget. Bill Karbach commented he has been working on parking zones for 2010, which will help fund this budget. Common Council's budget includes a donation amount for Council on Aging; council discussed whether to cut the donation amount in half, the full amount remains in the budget at this time. Putting the City Code books on disc instead of printing was considered. The City Attorney will check with Umbaugh about the city being charged for rental fee for hydrant rental versus adding this fee to the utility bills. Mayor mentioned getting quotes for liability insurance. Eliminating Decatur Dollars for employees and the Annual City Party were considered; no decision was made at this time. MVH-Street budget decreased \$26,000. No decreases were made to the Parks & Recreation budget, council request to make cuts somewhere in the budget. The Mayor will inform the Supt. to make cuts. Council questioned the wages in the Parks & Rec. budget whether city employees doing work for the county are paid from the correct entity. Council discussed

increasing sanitation fees, currently the monthly charge is \$4 a month, but cost the city \$10.51. The City Attorney mentioned the disposal fee will increase for 2010 approximately 5%. Councilman Meyer gave information from other communities on trash pickup. Meyer commented that most cities and towns are doing some kind of recycling. Tom Lahmon from Fifth Third Bank was present and commented in Van Wert they pay \$22 a month for trash pickup. Council is considering increasing the monthly fee to at least pay for the service. The Sanitation budget increased \$9,350.00. Also mentioned was eliminating the December heavy trash pickup. Raising the fees from \$4 to \$12 a month would generate \$340,000 more in revenues. The Clerk-Treasurer was instructed to produce a report to show the decrease in each budget, excluding the salaries and benefits. The Mayor mentioned he and the Clerk-Treasurer went to an IACT meeting, which talked about insurance pooling for health insurance, this wouldn't necessarily save the city money, but would reduce the trend of high increases in premiums. Also discussed was combining radio dispatchers with the county dispatchers. Councilman Crone remarked that there has been some talk about this at the county.

There being no further business, Engle made a motion for adjournment. Dyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.