

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
January 2, 2024

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on January 2, 2024 at 6:00 at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. Members present were Tyler Fullenkamp, Craig Coshow, and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the December 19, 2023 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to adopt the minutes from December 5, 2023 as emailed. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) regarding the banners to be hung featuring veterans and active service personnel. City Attorney Anne Razo shared minor changes had been made to the MOU originally distributed to Board Members. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the MOU with the DAR and authorized Mayor Rickord to sign. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert regarding the bids opened at the December 19, 2023 meeting and taken under advisement for the Community Crossing Matching Grant. Gilbert recommended accepting the lowest bid of \$886,747 from Brook's Construction from Fort Wayne. Fullenkamp made a motion to accept Gilbert's recommendation regarding the bid from Brook's Construction. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. Gilbert then shared he had received the executed contract from the State today.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared the next round of Community Crossing Matching Grant application process opened today with some changes. One change was the amount available which is increased to \$1.5 Million per year and additional improvements such as sidewalks and ADA ramps are included as possible uses for the funds. Gilbert noted the City would not be ready to apply for a the 2024-1 grants. Gilbert shared he had a seven (7) year plan which he maintained yearly and felt there is a need to re-look at areas of need. Coshow inquired about the status of the ADA ramps and Gilbert shared that report would be presented next month. Regarding budget funds, if the City applies for 2024-2 grants, those matching funds would be included in the 2025 City Budget.

Gilbert next noted there was \$40,000 in the street money and he sought permission to use the \$40,000 to grind concrete into stone to be used in various projects around the City. Coshow made a motion to allow Gilbert to proceed with the grinding to the cost of \$40,000. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. Fullenkamp then made a motion to authorize Mayor Rickord to sign the contract for the grinding. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared he had received the plans for the 5-Points Project and the plan needs to be signed by Mayor Rickord, Board Members Craig Coshow and Tyler Fullenkamp, and Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman. All involved wanted to look at the plans prior to signing.

The next item on the agenda was an update of various traffic improvement to be addressed in 2024. Mayor Rickord shared that he and Gilbert had driven around the City noting various areas needing work regarding vehicle and pedestrian safety.

Gilbert gave an update regarding the work at Bollman and 13th Street in conjunction with the Decatur Redevelopment Commission (DRC). It was shared the DRC had brought up the next phase with the

emphasis at Winchester Street. Plans are to hire someone to check to see if that area is feasible. It was shared the DRC is interested in working at that intersection in 2024 with sidewalks and ADA ramps to connect Bollman Street/13th Street to Winchester Street (Walmart). Gilbert shared the right-of-way needs consideration as well as utility locations.

The next area Gilbert shared was 28th Street and W Monroe St, noting that intersection has been a problem area for many years with several accidents. It was shared several engineers have studied the area and Gilbert noted it is time to take the next step. Gilbert shared there are various funding mechanism out there for work at that intersection.

The third area noted for consideration is 11th Street/Elm Street intersection which is another hot spot in the City. Gilbert also noted the Second Street/Jackson Street intersection has also been an area of concern.

Mayor Rickord shared the traffic improvement suggested had been talked of at the Department Heads meeting this morning. He noted some of the changes will be costly while some may just need a stop sign. The areas were brought up as information items, but Mayor Rickord shared the traffic issues will be worked on in 2024.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, was next on the agenda for a couple of Code Enforcement updates. The first area considered was 133 N. 8th Street and Witte shared the report came back that there is some asbestos in the basement. The cost to remove the asbestos is \$1,300. Originally the cost to demolish the residence was \$18,961 and that will now total \$20,261.

Secondly, Witte updated regarding the 1034 Parkview location. There had been an USDA mortgage on that property and Witte shared that debt had been cancelled. Having spoken to the current owner, he has no interest in the residence. City Attorney Anne Razo noted this residence has been issue for the City for several years. It has gone to sheriff sales and hasn't sold. With the information regarding the mortgage, it was noted a court order would no longer be necessary to demolish the home. It was then shared if the property goes to a sheriff sale and is purchased, the process would start all over again.

Coshow made a motion to make a matter of record the contract for the Community Crossing Marching Grant. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business, Coshow made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 6:45 P.M.