

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:40 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 3, 2023 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Resolution 2023-1, a resolution of the Common Council of the City of Decatur, Indiana which recognizes James “Spank” Hitchcock for his years of service as Assistant Chief of the Decatur Fire Department. Mayor Rickord asked Assistant Chief Hitchcock to come forward and noted him as a great friend and employee. He noted Assistant Chief Hitchcock’s work regarding fire detectors and the youth safety program. Numerous family members, friends, and retired and current firefighters, both volunteers and full-time firefighters were in attendance. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2023-1 in its entirety. Seconded by Murray, the motion was carried and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2023-1 in its entirety. Sirk then made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-1. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted. Mayor Rickord then presented a key to the City to Assistant Chief Hitchcock.

Due to Mayor Rickord needing to leave the meeting to attend an event at Bellmont High School, Sirk made a motion to suspend the Council meeting so Mayor Pro Tem, Matt Dyer could take over. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. Mayor Pro Tem Dyer then called the meeting to order. Coshow made a motion to reconvene the Council meeting. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before the Council to give an updated ADA Report. The report centered mainly around the handicap ramps and it was shared that 32 ramps had been updated. Gilbert shared that the areas listed in the red code listing were reduced and it is hoped to eventually eliminate all red and yellow coded areas. However, that would take some time. Coshow made a motion to make the ADA Program Review for 2022 for the City of Decatur a matter of record. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was the signed Certificates of Appointments for the Decatur Redevelopment Commission for 2023; Craig Russett, Jason Bird, Max Miller, Jeremy Friedt, and Ron Storey. Also, appointments for the Plan Commission - Stephen Hakes and Dave Schnitz. For the Board of Zoning Appeals - Chris Shoaf, for the Alcoholic Beverage Commission - Patrick Braun, and for the Decatur Parks Board – Alex Ainsworth. Coshow made a motion to make the various Certificates of Appointments to various Boards and Commissions a matter of record. Seconded by Sirk the motion was adopted.

Officer Blaze Brooks appeared before the Council regarding K-9 Arko. K-9 Arko is suffering from severe leg damage and having been evaluated by three vets, it was noted the dog should be retired and no longer used as a K-9 for the department. Officer Brooks commented that there would be no cost in replacing K-9 Arko as he has a warranty. Red Barn Veterinary currently takes care of the dog, and could do the initial surgery at a cost of \$2,023.91. A future home for K9

Arko still needs to be decided as he will be returned, but Officer Brooks noted he doesn't want him to be adopted by just anyone. Thus, he may be kept by Officer Brooks until a permanent placement can be sought. Officer Brooks mentioned that he has looked into a program called K9 Hero, an organization who takes care of retired working K9's. A new dog will be received on February 21, 2023 and training at Fort Wayne will begin on March 6, 2023. The new dog should be ready for duty by June, 2023. Murray made a motion to approve using the K9 #2 fund for Arko's initial surgery to be done by Red Barn Veterinary. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

As for the City signing over K9 Arko to Officer Brooks, the City Attorney Anne Razo will research to see if there are any stipulations before further action is taken regarding the future of K9 Arko's placement, which Attorney Razo will have information at the February 7th meeting.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager announced that the new See Click Fix program for residents to report issues to the City should be available in 45 days.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor mentioned that letters are being sent out to approximately 50-60 customers in the Grey Goose addition and along 28th Street to notify them that the Adams County Regional Sewer District will be taking over their billing.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Supt. reported that I-O Properties is working with IDEM in getting their permits.

Ordinance 2023-1, an ordinance which amends Chapter 92 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 for the purpose of authorizing the deposit of all costs assessed and collected for mowing yards deemed as a nuisance. Previously the Decatur Parks Department handled the mowing of any yard violations, but now this is being handled through the Building and Zoning Department by code enforcement. This ordinance changes which fund the costs are to be deposited, which will be to the General Fund rather than the City's Parks and Recreation Fund. Sirk made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-1 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-1 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-1 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-1 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was carried and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-1 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-1 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-1 for its third reading for the February 7, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Pro Tem Dyer mentioned that emails had been received asking why minutes were not posted the next day. It was noted that minutes need to be approved before posting and are not approved until the next meeting. Anyone wanting copies of the minutes can contact the Clerk-Treasurer's office. Dyer also mentioned that he received an inquiry regarding a published agenda. City Attorney Razo noted the only requirements by law are the notifications of time and places of the Council meeting.

Councilman Coshow shared that a lean-to is being built at the former Water Plant on Monroe Street with a grant from the Adams County Community Foundation (ACCF), and supplies are being provided by local businesses and built by the Belmont Trades class to be used for the bands as a stage for the 4th of July fireworks event.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Sirk made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:30 P.M.