

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 15, 2022

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Councilmen 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.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the February 1, 2022 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was an amendment to Ordinance 2022-1, an ordinance that amended Chapter 91 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 in its entirety, regarding Fire Prevention: Fireworks. Ordinance 2022-1 had the effective date as the date of Council's approval. However, after the ordinance had been sent to the State for approval it had been returned noting the effective date had to be the date established when the State approved the ordinance. Thus, Ordinance 2022-6, an ordinance to repeal and replace Ordinance 2022-1 and change the effective date to the date of State approval was presented. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-6 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was carried and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-6 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-6 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-6 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-6 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-6 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2022-6 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-6 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-6 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 vote.

Police Chief Lennie Corral appeared before the Council to provide an update regarding the UTV Ordinance. Chief Corral, Mayor Rickord, and City Attorney Anne Razo had met with an officer from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today and gained a lot of insight. Chief Corral is getting closer to a final draft of an ordinance, but is still working on a couple areas. Corral is planning to use the Indiana Code, there are two (2) areas where the City will likely be stricter in that the plans are to use the age of 18 for one to legally drive the UTV on City streets and that the age of 8 would be used for any child passengers. Chief Corral is still getting calls and informs each caller that the ordinance is being discussed at each Council meeting. He noted he does not want to rush the ordinance and wants to make sure everything is right before passage.

Fire Chief Les Marckel announced that the Decatur Fire Department plans to introduce the Residential Knox Box Program to Decatur residents. The Knox Box program has been very successful for commercial businesses locally. The residential program would be a voluntary program allowing the fire department access to residential structures in case of an emergency and the resident is not available. It is especially geared to those residents that spend the winter in warmer climates or those who spend the summer at lake cottages. A key would be placed in a small box located near the resident's door and the Fire Department would have the key to open the

box, allowing entrance into the residence. The Knox Box would be especially helpful for those properties protected by a monitored alarm system. In case of an emergency, the Fire Department will open the box, remove the keys and contact card, enter the structure, investigate and then call the people listed on the call card to let them know of the incident. Following the investigation, the keys would be returned to the Knox Box and locked properly. Marckel will have a Press Release for this program and this will also be posted on the Decatur website. For information, City residents are to call the Fire Department at 260-724-8909. Chief Marckel will report back to the Board in a couple months of the status of the program.

Resolution 2022-6, a resolution ratifying amendments and modifications to COVID-19 guidelines and public health leave policy established in the City of Decatur Ordinance 2020-4 was brought forward. The resolution follows the CDC guidelines and changes the public health leave policy to 5 days instead of 10 days. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2022-6 by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2022-6 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-6. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted. City Attorney Razo noted that these guidelines are subject to change if the State of Indiana ends the Health Emergency.

Following input from the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting, the consensus of the Council was to set Wednesday, February 23, 2022 for a Special Council Meeting at 6 P.M. in Council Chambers in order to allow more time to discuss improvements for the Sanitation Department and to discuss developing a plan with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) established by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Clerk-Treasurer will post the Special Council meeting, and notify the media.

#### Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager noted that another round of roller coaster weather is being predicted. He also mentioned that pot hole season is here and if anyone notices areas needing work they are to contact the Public Works Department at 724-3356.

Police Chief Lennie Corral had worked with Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright regarding a grant for handgun permits with \$6,630 being received.

Fire Chief Les Marckel had found a website and learned that the cost of the Knox Box is from \$190 to \$315, which would be the cost to the resident.

#### Council Input

Sirk invited anyone who is interested in learning more about Main Street there is a meeting with a representative from Office of Community Rural of Affairs (OCRA) to be held at The HIVE at 11:45 on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

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

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

Adjournment was at 7:44 P.M.