

SPECIAL MEETING  
CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2022

A Special Meeting of the City of Decatur Common Council was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 6:00 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 Special Common Council meeting had been properly posted and the media notified at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

The purpose of the Special meeting was 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).

Dyer made a motion to suspend approving the minutes from the previous meeting until the regularly scheduled meeting. Sirk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert handed out information pertaining to the Sanitation Department. Gilbert informed the Council that they have been having issues with the garbage trucks. He also mentioned that one of the two recycling trucks had been sold at auction, which eliminated putting in over \$30,000 in repairs, but now the second recycling truck is having repair issues and is looking at possibly purchasing a Rollster roll off dump trailer and (3) bins for recycling. Gilbert had received a quote from Indiana Trailer Sales at a cost of approximately \$35,000.00 for a dump trailer and dump bins, which would replace the recycle trucks. These would be placed at the drop off site on Elm Street. Gilbert also suggested to sell the second recycling truck before having to make any more repairs. There have been times when the recycling trucks are so full that they've had to close the recycling area. Currently there is no funding in the budget to purchase the Rollster roll off dump trailer and bins. Another improvement Gilbert is considering is at the recycling drop off area at Elm Street is to concrete the stone area, but again there are no funds available in the current budget. Gilbert reported that the cost for disposal of the recycling is at \$.43 per stop, costing a little over \$18,000.00 in 2021.

For trash collection, the City has maintained the same method since the beginning, and Gilbert has concerns for the employee's safety on the back of the garbage trucks and getting stuck by needles. The 2003 International garbage truck is getting worn out, and the 2009 garbage truck is in decent shape and may be used for a few more years. The 2019 Freightliner garbage truck is in good shape and is used for both recycling and trash collection. Gilbert reported that in 2021 there were 3,358 stops, and over 800 stop in one day due to more housing expansions. Currently there are 3 employees on a garbage truck, the driver, and two on the back. For the recycling routes and drop off site, there are two employees. There are days when it gets difficult to get a route done in an eight-hour day. The Sanitation Department provides six (6) services: Weekly trash collection, bi-weekly recycling collection, spring and fall yard waste

collection, maintenance and operations of the compost site, and heavy trash collection bi-annually, and leaf collection. Gilbert complimented his employees on doing a great job in providing all these services.

Gilbert handed out a photos of a new garbage truck that lifts trash cans, rather than having the employees pick them up. Also curbside recycling could be switched to this method. There also may be some IDEM grants available for recycling. The Mayor had contacted another community that uses this type of truck and they were very pleased. With the new type of garbage truck, trash cans would need to be purchased, either the property owner or the City would need to purchase the trash can. An option was to add the cost of the trash can to the utility bill. Also discussed was determining the size of the trash can that would be needed. Gilbert informed the Council members that the trash can be barcoded to keep track of who owns them.

The cost to replace the same type of garbage truck is estimated at \$200,000, and the for the new hands free method garbage truck is estimated at \$281,500, and would have less manpower. These prices are State bid pricing through Sourcewell.

Gilbert informed the Council members if they do want to move forward with this proposal, it would be four (4) weeks out when ordering the trash cans. Gilbert wasn't expecting a decision to be made at this time, but wanted to present the information for Council to review.

Councilman Coshow directed Gilbert to look into possibly a lease to purchase for the new garbage trucks and report back at the next meeting.

The other item on the agenda was to start a discussion on developing a plan with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) that were established by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Mayor Rickord stated that with the Final Rule a lot of the restrictions have been lifted. These funds can now be used for any services traditionally provided by the local government. The City of Decatur will be receiving approximately \$2.1 million and can be used to cover cost incurred or obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. The Mayor, Council and Department Heads mentioned several projects that could be done with the funds, some of the projects mentioned were, sewer tank project, replacing of sewer and water lines, combine sewer overflow on Marshall Street, water main extension, repair of lift stations, painting of water towers, replacing and purchasing fire vehicles, IT security upgrade at the police station, extending the trails. Also projects that have been started but are in need of being finished, such as paving the parking lot, and adding a canopy netting for safety at the REV Sports Complex, 13<sup>th</sup> Street improvements. No decisions were made at this time, but will allow Council members to develop a plan from the projects mentioned to see which would impact the future of the City with the funds being received from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

There being no further discussion. Councilman Dyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Fullenkamp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.