

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
March 7, 2023

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on March 7, 2023 at 6:00 at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. Members present were Craig Coshow, Tyler Fullenkamp and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the February 21, 2023 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was action regarding the bids that were received from the previous meeting regarding the 2022-2 Community Crossing Matching Grant. Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert shared that he and USI representatives had studied the bids and both recommended accepting the lowest and most responsive bid of \$1,052,685.36 from Brooks Construction out of Fort Wayne. Fullenkamp made a motion to accept the recommendation from Gilbert and USI to accept the bid from Brooks Construction for \$1,052,685.36, and authorize the Mayor and Gilbert to sign any necessary paperwork to complete the grant. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Next were the bids offered for street materials, equipment, and labor for 2023 that were opened at the previous meeting. The bids were very similar, so Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert recommended accepting the bids from all three bidders and use the contractor who is available when services are needed. Coshow made a motion to accept the bids from Fleming Excavating, Wayne Asphalt, and Brooks Construction for street materials, equipment, and labor for the year 2023. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to make the Conditional Employment Contract with the new Firefighter Derek Schultz a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Coshow then made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office for Firefighter Derek Schultz a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent appeared before the Board regarding the home located at 827 Dierkes Street, owned by Randy McKean. Witte shared that the POA for the owner had called him to report the condition of the home. The owner has had a stroke and is in the nursing home. Witte had entered the home and found it to have severe structural damage so it has been condemned. The POA had asked if the City would demolish the home and then they would reimburse the City for the disposal fees. City Attorney Anne Razo noted that Witte would need to get an agreement between the City and the owner authorizing the POA authority from the owner before any further action. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow Witte to proceed with any demolition following reception of the necessary paperwork and its approval by City Attorney Razo. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

New Police Chief Kevin Gerber appeared before the Board regarding various issues. The first item was seeking to schedule an Executive meeting with the Board in order to interview those officers interested in filling the detective position held by Gerber prior to becoming Police Chief. By consensus, it was decided to hold interviews at City Hall in Council Chambers beginning at 3 P.M. on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

Police Chief Gerber sought permission to open the application period to seek lateral applications for an open position in the police department. Fullenkamp made a motion to permit Chief Gerber to open the application process to seek lateral applicants. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber sought permission to trade-in a used 2016 Ford Sedan Police Interceptor vehicle as a trade-in to Tom Kelley who valued the car at \$5,000, and to use the trade-in towards a new SUV. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow Chief Gerber to proceed with the trade-in for \$5,000. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Chief Kevin Gerber shared that he had planned a Department meeting with all officers, especially to talk about the current State-wide Pull Over Project. Chief Gerber noted he had learned today that he needed to attend Chief's School within a short time after being named Chief and he is planning to attend in April. Chief Gerber also noted he is working with the schedule in attempt to have some officers represent Decatur at the funeral for State Police Master Trooper James Bailey on Saturday.

Next on the agenda was a discussion regarding the parking lot behind the 2nd St. Lofts. Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator shared that there are some concerns regarding the handicap spots, signage, and the use of the alley which is a dead end. It was noted by Mayor Rickord that a meeting needs to be held with the 2nd St. Loft management, so the original contract for the lease can be reviewed, and to include the Decatur Redevelopment Commission members in the meeting since the parking lot is leased through the Commission. City Attorney Anne Razo will look over the contract and Jamie Gephart will setup a meeting with the 2nd St. Loft manager and others that would be involved.

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

Adjournment was at 6:32 P.M.