

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 7:00 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 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.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the February 21, 2023 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

As the meeting opened, Mayor Rickord noted the student from the Mayor's Youth Council who was in attendance, who introduced himself as Mason Martinez.

Mayor Rickord shared that Ordinance 2023-3, an Ordinance which amends Chapter 90 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 regarding the number of pets permitted within city limits and adds a new section related to restrictions on livestock within city limits, was to be considered this evening, but he had met with the group concerned about the language and wishes to continue meeting with them in order to come up with language agreeable with both sides. Thus, Dyer made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-3 until a time when Mayor Rickord brings an amendment to the ordinance for Council to consider at a future meeting. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office a matter of record of the Mayor's appointment of naming Kevin Gerber as the Decatur Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator brought forth several event forms for Madison Street Plaza and Riverside Center events. The event forms were reviewed by the Department Heads, and were as follows:

- 1) Mothers' Day Momma Llama on Madison Street Plaza on May 13, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and sponsored by Decatur Main Street.
- 2) Downtown Decatur Day on June 17, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with street closings on 2nd St. from Madison to Court St.
- 3) Back to School Bash on the Madison St. Plaza on Aug. 5, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 4) Dekegger at Riverside Center (inside and outside) on September 16, 2023, which is a change from Madison Street Plaza. Street closing on a portion of Jackson St to the bridge.
- 5) Private rental by Abby Wilder for a graduation party on the Plaza on June 2, 2023 from 4-9 p.m., also including rental of The HIVE.
- 6) Decatur Sculpture Tour event on June 8 and 9, 2023 with the unveiling on June 9, 2023.
- 7) Conner Brite's Wildflower Benefit Concert on the Madison Plaza on June 10, 2023 from 5-11 p.m.

Coshow made a motion to approve the events to be held on the Madison Street Plaza and at Riverside Center, and the street closings. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Max Miller, representing the Decatur Main Street Design Committee appeared before the Council regarding Decatur Main Street's way-finding signage plan. Miller has been working with

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, and Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager throughout the planning process. The cost of the project is \$43,222.40 for signage, and \$2,000 for the setting of the poles. Miller shared that the Decatur Redevelopment Commission has committed paying for the project and also encouraged Decatur Main Street to seek other grants to assist with the costs. Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator is working to make sure all signage is correct. Each pole could accommodate six (6) signs and currently the number goes from two (2) to six (6) for each pole. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager noted that talk has been ongoing for this type of signage to help people find various buildings and so forth since 2012. Coshow made a motion to accept the proposal presented by Max Miller representing the Decatur Main Street Design Committee. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Councilman Dyer inquired if the kiosk located across the street from City Hall was working and it was shared by Councilman Coshow and Community Coordinator Gephart that it was, and that when storms come through it has to be updated. Thus, Innovative Concepts is installing the needed batteries and so forth to eliminate the problem.

Mayor Rickord had received a request to sponsor the Decatur Chamber of Commerce annual dinner at \$350 same as last year's amount. The dinner is to be held on April 20, 2023. Dyer made a motion to sponsor the Decatur Chamber of Commerce annual dinner at a rate of \$350.00 to be paid from Council's promotional account. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted, with Coshow abstaining.

Craig Coshow announced that the Decatur Chamber of Commerce is taking application for the Stephen Decatur award and for large and small business award. Applications can be sent to the Chamber office. The awards dinner will be on April 20th beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Pavilion.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager announced that the bids for the 2022-2 Community Crossing Matching Grant had been accepted by the Board of Public Works and Safety earlier this evening. The accepted bid totaled \$1,052,685.36. Gilbert also shared that the Chamber had received a donation for the rest of the lights at the top of the downtown buildings and his crew had completed hanging the lights today. Gilbert also reported that his crew had completed the waterline replacement in Homestead Addition with some restoration work to be done yet. He also noted that the weather has allowed the crew to run the street sweeper and do street maintenance earlier than normal.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets reminded people to turn around when they come across water over the roads. The department assisted in retrieving an individual who had died as a result of deep water earlier this week. Chief Sheets introduced the new Firefighter, Derek Schultz who was in attendance.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent shared that the City has a great cost sharing sidewalk program. However, someone is damaging the new sidewalks in such ways as walking or writing or riding bikes through them and putting ruts in the wet concrete. Witte noted that if people damaging the sidewalks are caught, they will be prosecuted.

Wastewater Supt., Karey Fuelling report that the Pine Valley lift station project is completed.

Mayor Rickord shared that a meeting with the Mayor's Youth Council had recently been held at 6:45 A.M. at The HIVE, and all twelve (12) representatives were in attendance. He noted they are providing great input for future projects.

Mayor Rickord announced a meeting will be held on March 22, 2023 with Colton Bickel of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation, County Officials, and City Officials to discuss the housing issue and how people can become residents of Adams County. Mayor Rickord shared that after that meeting, plans are for the City to bring in people from Ball State University to be a part of the input and study. Following that, will be a community meeting.

Coshow shared that letters had been sent to college and high school age individuals to learn if any of them would be interested in participating in the Summer Concerts.

Sirk 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 Murray, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:18 P.M.