

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
April 4, 2023

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on April 4, 2023 at 6:00 at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. Members present were Tyler Fullenkamp and Mayor Rickord. Craig Coshow was absent. Also present were City Attorney Anne Razo and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Wendi Gephart. Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright was absent due to a family matter.

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

Mayor Rickord opened the meeting and Skip Tennecour and Kelly Dean were present via virtual Teams meeting representing American Structurepoint for an update regarding the 5-point project. It was shared that an acquisition agreement had been reached between the owner of the gas station and INDOT. The closing will be scheduled in the near future and the City takes possession in 30 days at which time the owner must vacate the property. It was noted that the gas tanks are to be empty by the 30th day following the closing. Mayor Rickord thanked the representatives for providing the update. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager noted that the tanks will stay on the property, but they must be empty. Gilbert commented that this project started in 2016 with Stellar and is an 80/20 project through INDOT. It was noted that funding is already budgeted for this project and a simple voucher process that the City is familiar with will be used for the Federal funding. Gilbert also noted that the project will likely be let for bids in the next few weeks.

Next on the agenda was Building and Zoning Superintendent Curt Witte as he sought permission to demolish the home at 928 Schirmeyer Street with the owner paying the costs of disposal fees of the demolition. The building department has been dealing with this property since 2019, and has gone through a tax sale twice and now has a new owner. The property had originally been condemned when no electricity or other utilities were hooked up to the house. The new owner plans to build a duplex. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the demolition of 928 Schirmeyer with the owner reimbursing the City for costs. Seconded by Mayor Rickord the motion was adopted.

Next it was noted that Lamar Advertising had purchased Burkhart Advertising and City Attorney Anne Razo had contacted the Lamar representatives as directed at the March 21, 2023 Board of Public Works meeting regarding negotiations of a new lease. However, Attorney Razo had contacted them and has not heard back from Lamar Advertising at this time.

Wastewater Supt., Karey Fuelling requested an executive session be scheduled to discuss acquiring land for a second CSO tank. It was decided to delay setting a date for an executive session until Board member Craig Coshow returns to make sure all three members are available for a meeting.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make Officer James “Corey” Hamm’s Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office of being promoted as a Detective/Lieutenant effective March 27, 2023 a matter of record. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion was adopted.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber then shared that he had met with each Officer and they were unanimous in wanting to switch from 8-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts. As necessary, each Officer had signed to revoke the 1996 Agreement. Thus, a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) needed to be presented for approval. City Attorney Razo noted everything had been linked together so the Officers know exactly

what is involved regarding language, time, salary, and so forth. Fullenkamp made a motion to make a matter of record the notice of revocation of the Agreement of 1996. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp then made a motion to approve the amendment of Section 1.03 Work Hours/Reporting for Duty section of the Police Officers Standard Operating Procedures manual (SOP) as presented. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion was adopted.

Councilman Matt Dyer asked if this restructuring will eliminate a sergeant position. Chief Gerber informed him that he will be restructuring the upper part of his staff and will not be eliminating a sergeant position.

Regarding the lateral application process, Chief Gerber noted he had met with the individual and things are looking positive. The individual has given notice to his current department that he is making application in Decatur. Chief Gerber shared that there is an opening to meet with PERF on April 15, 2023, with May 1, 2023 is a tentative date for the Officer to join the Decatur Police Department.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor shared that specifications for the painting of the second water tower which is located on Line Street are prepared and ready to be put out for bid. He noted the same color scheme will be used as for the Piqua tower. The cost is estimated to be \$200,000 to \$220,000 which is greater than the first painting as more work is to be done, especially with the legs of the tower. Fullenkamp made a motion allowing Hackman to start the bid process. Seconded by Mayor Rickord, the motion was adopted.

Building and Zoning Superintendent Curt Witte and Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert appeared before the Board regarding the 50/50 sidewalk program. It was shared that there are several areas that need updated and many are at locations where there are older citizens who cannot afford the entire payment at one time. It was brought up for discussion purposes, the possibility of setting up a payment plan or be part of the utility bill. Gilbert noted this kind of goes along with Mayor Rickord's idea of extending the façade program to include such things as landscapes and so forth. Fullenkamp noted he would hate to see someone having to wait a couple of years for updating his sidewalk when neighbors on each side have completed the project. Gilbert shared that the main areas they are considering is Nuttman Avenue. Mayor Rickord noted he felt it was a good idea to reach several along the street as it is being repaved this year. Attorney Anne Razo noted some State Board of Accounts issues may need to be addressed. No action was taken this evening.

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

Adjournment was at 6:45 P.M.