

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
APRIL 4, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:55 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 Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. 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.

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

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

As he opened the meeting, Mayor Rickord noted the severe weather warnings issued for tomorrow and encouraged all to follow any warnings and stay safe. He noted some schools have already cancelled classes for tomorrow.

The first item on the agenda was the Tekni-Plex (Dolco Packaging) CF-1 abatement form. It was noted that this is the last year for the abatement. It was also noted that they have kept up with the payroll but are still looking for employees. In fact, Mayor Rickord stated that they could use 35 new employees. Sirk made a motion to approve the continuation of the abatement as the requirements have been met. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance, 2023-5, an ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Decatur which amends Chapter 154 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, as supplemented, for the purpose of establishing subdivision ingress/egress standards to be included in plans and specifications submitted for the purpose of obtaining final plat approval by Plan Commission, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-5 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-5 by short title only. Sirk then made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-5 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, the roll call vote was held and passed 4-0 with Coshow being absent.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber also appeared before Council to get their approval regarding the revocation of the 1996 Police Officer's Agreement and the amendment of Section 1.03 Work Hours/Reporting for Duty section of the Police Officer's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which had been approved earlier at the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting. Dyer made a motion to also approve the revocation of the 1996 Agreement with the police officers, and approve the amendment to the Decatur Police Officer's SOP. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Mayor asked permission to sponsor a table at the Annual Chamber Dinner to be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Dyer made a motion to approve sponsoring a table at the Annual Chamber Dinner. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo shared that the attorney for the landowners of the Lake Shores Addition has the desire to annex approximately 25 acres for development. One requirement for the annexation is the preparation and adoption of a fiscal plan. Having talked to Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and Attorney Tim Baker who had previously served as the City Attorney, she had learned the City Attorney had prepared the fiscal plan for the last couple of annexations. It was noted the cost would be \$3,500 to \$4,000, which is much lower than hiring an outside source to prepare the plan. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow City Attorney Anne Razo to proceed with

the fiscal plan for the annexation of 24.56 acres at Lake Shores. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord thanked Colton Bickel, Executive Director of the Adams County Economic Corporation for having the recent symposium for housing. In conjunction with that, it is great to hear of Lake Shores' interest in adding more lots and homes. It was shared that the meeting was a great start regarding the need for housing in Adams County and Decatur. Mayor Rickord than thanked the City and other Municipalities' that attended the symposium. Mayor Rickord noted representatives from Ball State University (BSU) will be coming to Adams County to study the demographics of what is going on in the County. The Mayor noted invitations will be forthcoming regarding the meeting with the BSU representatives.

#### Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager noted that spring heavy trash will be picked up next week and he urged resident to follow the rules and be mindful of what they put out. He noted April 17, 2023 will likely be the start of yard waste collection. Gilbert then noted some illegal dumping had been done lately at the Elm Street location and cameras are there to catch those who are doing this and will be turned over to the police. He encouraged people not to ruin it for everyone.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber reported that the box for dropping off unused drugs is being replaced and the new box will have a funnel system.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator shared that the new software for citizens to use when reporting issues within the city will be updated on the City website. The new system will be launched on April 11, 2023 and it will help with the management and recording of events and input from residents.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared that the Department had held Open Houses a couple days during the school's spring break with about 60 families attending.

#### Mayor and Council Input:

Mayor Rickord noted the fence and pavilion were up at the Dog Park. There are funds budgeted for those projects. However, fundraising will now begin to continue with the project for the comprehensive Kekionga Park Project, which will include cleaning and stocking the pond, upgrading the ball field, and the continuation of the Dog Park.

Mayor Rickord shared that the Mayor's Youth Council has split up for a couple of projects. They have been attending several meetings and making plans for various events. One of the Youth Council members, Victoria Hamrick was in attendance.

Sirk noted the Easter Egg Hunt is to be held at Riverside Center on Saturday, April 8, 2023 at noon. The event is being sponsored by the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and Decatur Main Street.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Murray, 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 7:32 P.M.