

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
APRIL 18, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:47 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, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo. Councilman Scott Murray was absent.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the April 4, 2023 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

First on the agenda was Fire Chief Jeff Sheets regarding the use of some of the Betty Walter's Fund to purchase a fire extinguisher trainer, the current one has had many repairs and needs to be replaced. Fire Chief Sheets reported that he will be receiving funds from Adams Memorial Hospital and has funds available in the Fire Donation fund, and then will use the Betty Walter's Fund to supplement the costs. Coshow made a motion to allow the use of the Betty Walter's Fund for the fire extinguisher trainer. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was a discussion regarding the City joining the County's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Joining the County can be done with both groups approving a resolution and being part of the Plan, which allows the City to be eligible for funding if there's an emergency. Sirk made a motion to adopt a resolution and allow Mayor Rickord to sign after adoption. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried.

Mayor Rickord recognized a member of the Mayor's Youth Council in attendance and shared that the members have split into groups and are working on different projects such as Downtown Decatur Day to be held on June 17, 2023.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for Armanda Turney a matter of record, who will be working part-time for the Parks and Recreation Department, and also updates the City website. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Adams County Commissioner Stan Stoppenhagen, Council on Aging Director Michelle Lengerich, and Attorney Clayton Lengerich regarding the possible adoption of a full public transportation program in conjunction with the Council on Aging at the MERIT Center. A garage is needed for the program which will double the number of vehicles. It was shared that 77 counties already have the program. It was noted that 40% of the individuals involved in the Community Corrections Program do not have a license to drive and often can't get to their appointments. This program would provide that needed transportation at a fee. This transportation program could also be used by students who have extracurricular activities and do not have transportation home following the activity. Stoppenhagen shared that the Commissioners are very supportive of the program. However, to build the garage, they would like to work with the City to request ownership of approximately a half of acre to build a garage by upgrading the HVAC unit at the MERIT Center, and a long-term lease for the Council on Aging at the MERIT Center. City Council members seemed supportive of the proposition and seemed in favor to continue working together, both City and County to come up with a solution agreeable to both groups. County Council will also need to agree, once approval is received then County

representatives will meet with City representatives for final details and return back at a future City Council meeting for final approval.

Next on the agenda was the CF-1 abatement form for ABCinema. Co-owner Barb Affolder was present to make comments and answer any questions. It was shared that they have not had any problems getting employees as they seem to come from current employees. Most of the staff are high school and college students, but there are also some adults. Fullenkamp made a motion to continue the abatement for ABCinema since they are in substantial compliance. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager then gave an update regarding Riverside Center. Gilbert shared that a group who regularly plays pickleball sought more courts. It was noted that half or more of those who play pickleball are from outside the City. Thus, the County Commissioners and County Council members were approached and were willing to assist funding to provide more courts. The fence behind Riverside Center will be taken down and the demolition work will be done by City employees. One (1) volleyball court will be maintained. The pine trees which have outlived their life will be taken down and the Parks Board has agreed to redo the landscape work. Gilbert thanked the County Commissioners and County Council members for their cooperation on this project.

Dyer made a motion to approve City Officials attendance at the Decatur Chamber Annual Dinner. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted with Coshow abstaining.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager shared that yard waste pick-up started this week. A different plan is being used this year. Gilbert reported that the water is on in the Parks and much action is being seen at the various parks, and urged individuals to be mindful of those using the Parks. Gilbert mentioned that he had been receiving calls regarding the mulch at the compost site, which the compost will be grinded at the end of the month.

Deputy Police Chief Chris Brite shared that the Department has been provided a room at the MERIT Center for training and requested to remove the portable partition walls, and do some painting. Dyer made a motion to approve the requests. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor reported that the publication seeking bids for the second water tower painting has been published in today's paper and noted the bids are due by May 2, 2023.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Supt. reported that IDEM's inspections went well for the outfall at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Rickord announced a new event, a golf cart parade will be part of Downtown Decatur Day this year with the funds raised to be used for support of the Kekionga Park improvement projects.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Fullenkamp made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:42 P.M.