

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 6, 2021

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 7:10 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance and Tyler Fullenkamp was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Tim Baker.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the June 15, 2021 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord introduced Jamie Gephart as the recently named Community Coordinator and welcomed her as a part of the City's Staff.

Mayor Rickord introduced Darlene Vassil who was present to share drawings of a couple of murals she had been asked to design and paint. The one mural will be on the white area to the north of the brick wall at the northwest corner of First and Monroe Streets and the other mural will be along the alley building. Ms. Vassil had been commissioned by Terry Myers to do the murals in the concession stands at the REV Sports Complex, and also to do these additional murals which will be funded by Mr. Myers through the Adams County Community Foundation. Ms. Vassil moved to Decatur and had previously lived in Hobart, Indiana and taught elementary art in the Crown Point schools.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of employee wages for 2022. Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright had ran the numbers of what it would cost the City for a 3% increase. It was shared by Mayor Rickord that with the job market and the lack of people it is crucial to keep the great employees the City has, the City is blessed to have such a great group of employees. By consensus, it was decided to proceed with the 3% increase which gives the Department Heads and Clerk-Treasurer Whitright figures to use in working on the budget for 2022.

An event form for Downtown Decatur Day, a Decatur Main Street event was brought forward. The event will be held on Saturday, July 10, 2021 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. Madison Street Plaza will be used and the use of the restrooms was requested. A request was made to close 2nd Street from Court St. to Jackson St., but leave Monroe Street open, and close a portion of Madison Street between 2nd and 3rd Street. Dyer made a motion to accept the event and street closings for Downtown Decatur Day on July 10, 2021. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord recommended signing an agreement with Crowe LLP to assist the City with financial advice for all the federal and state grant funding that is now available, especially with the funds available as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Rickord noted the City has worked with Crowe for numerous years and that Crowe has prepared an agreement that includes an hourly fee schedule for Crowe to prepare an analysis on ARP and other capital funding items. Coshow made a motion to proceed with using Crowe LLP for financial assistance, and authorize Clerk-Treasurer, Phyllis Whitright to sign the agreement. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted. It was noted that the cost to pay Crowe for their services will be shared between the City and Utilities.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager reported that the employees have been quite busy the last 2 to 3 weeks with 14 water main breaks to repair. The workers are working long hours, sometimes throughout the night. During the next couple of weeks, they hope to begin working on Phases 2 and 3 of the 2nd Street Streetscape project. City employees will work on replacing the water lines first and then TG Concrete will do the sidewalk replacement, and Rorick Electric will begin electrical work for lights in August. Gilbert mentioned that things are going well with the work being done in the Homestead Addition.

Bill Carpenter, Assistant Water Superintendent commented that with both new water plants operating, they hope things will slow down and leaks will be reduced.

Fire Chief Les Marckel announced that the aerial truck is back after being in Indianapolis for a month for repairs. Now the department will be down an engine for 2-3 weeks for repairs. Chief Marckel noted that the mutual aid agreement with the area fire departments will be on call until the engine is back in service.

Police Chief Lennie Corral shared that Officers Alex Smith and Gabe Schwaller reported to the Academy today, and will be there for 12 weeks. Also announced that training at the shooting range is scheduled for July 13, 2021.

Council Input:

Coshow thanked sponsors and employees for helping with the 4th of July fireworks event.

Public Input:

Tim Korte was present and asked if the City would authorize the use of ATV's in the City similar to the use of golf carts. He mentioned that ATV's are authorized for use in the County, but not the City, and he often comes to Decatur and would like to be able to use his ATV for transportation. Police Chief Lennie Corral has a copy of the City of Berne's ordinance and he can get other ordinances from surrounding cities with such ordinances to review. City Attorney Tim Baker will contact Berne Officials to see if they have had any issues.

Media Input:

Jim Langham of *The Berne Witness* shared that he had talked with Ken Ketzler at the 4th of July event and Mr. Ketzler had noted that with the recent death of his son, having events available in the City are important to him. Mr. Langham noted that when the City puts on the various activities how many lives are touched in a positive way.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims. 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 passed.

Adjournment was at 7:47 P.M.