

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
July 20, 2021

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. Members present were Craig Coshow, Tyler Fullenkamp and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Timothy Baker.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes of the July 6, 2021 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent appeared before the Board and gave an update regarding the building at 138 North 2nd Street. Witte informed the Board members that Chris Faurote will be taking possession of the building and has started making the needed repairs.

Witte then gave an update regarding the elevator in City Hall. The estimate of updating the elevator would be \$80,000 to \$90,000 plus an additional \$35,000 to \$40,000 for another scope of work that would need to be done on the elevator. Witte shared that the elevator currently works fine, but he was told by the elevator company that if a problem comes up they will not be able to find parts to repair any issues. There is a yearly check of the elevator by the State and the City has not been fined but has been written up. Witte has two (2) sealed quotes from Schindler and Otis, and is working on getting a third sealed quote from KONE. Witte also mentioned that one company has provided an option of a payment plan. No action was taken as Board members want to wait until the third quote is received. By consensus, as the budget is being put together, it was suggested budgeting \$140,000 to \$150,000 in the 2022 budget if the elevator work is needed.

Detective's Brad Stoltz and Kevin Gerber appeared before the Board regarding the base salary of the Decatur Police Officers. Chief Lennie Corral was present via phone. Det. Stoltz first thanked the Board for the proposed 3% raise for 2022. Officer Stoltz shared that they were requesting the addition of \$2,000 to the base pay by using LOIT-Public Safety funds. Comparing the base pays of officers in surrounding cities, they found that the base pay is \$50,000 in Huntington, \$52,000 in Bluffton, and \$54,000 in New Haven. With an additional \$2,000 the Decatur base pay would be \$51,518, slightly over Huntington. The additional amount of \$2,000 would cost \$59,000 of the LOIT funds. The emphasis for the increased base is to keep officers from leaving as the Decatur Police Department has lost three (3) officers via laterals to higher paying positions, two (2) have retired, four (4) have resigned, and two (2) have moved into the private sector because of higher salaries. The Department is fully staffed now for the first time since Greg Cook was the Police Chief. Det. Gerber shared that getting the base pay increased would get the Department more in a competitive status and keep the current officers. It was noted many hours are spent every time they have to go through the hiring process and then there are hours and hours of training for new hires. During the discussion all seemed to be in support of the increase but did not like using the LOIT fund for wages. Mayor Rickord was not against getting the wages up, but he wanted to look at others ways of doing it. It was noted that when the Local Income Tax was adopted in 2014, it was intended to be used towards capital expenses for Police & Fire and free up monies in the general fund. After a lengthy discussion, the Police Chief, Lennie Corral was directed not to use the LOIT-Public Safety fund for wages, and to review his 2022 police budget to see if funds are available to pay for the raises from the general fund. Chief Corral was out of town but he agreed via phone that he would look over his budget and also meet with Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright early next week as he returned home. Fullenkamp recommended that the police and fire need to work together to come up with a plan for future spending that both agree to for what the LOIT-Public Safety fund is used towards.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert, appeared before the Board and reported that an employee had an accident with a City vehicle and that the insurance company did not deem the vehicle as a total loss. There is over \$3,000 worth of damage to the vehicle. The truck is a 2001 Dodge owned by the Water Department and has over 160,000 miles and is rusted out. Thus, Gilbert sought permission to scrap the vehicle, since the value of the truck is less than \$1,000. Fullenkamp made a motion to give permission to Gilbert to scrap the wrecked vehicle. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert then shared that part of the project for Madison Street Plaza included adding a sound system along Second Street. Starting at Monroe Street and going to Madison Street, the cost from Innovative Concepts would be \$38,218.35 to have speakers on poles on both sides of Second Street. The cost would be for cabling, speakers, and amps. The sound system would be used for such things as music or announcements for such times as the Callithumpian Parade. The sound system would be one of the final pieces for Phase I of the Second Street Streetscape project. The cost would be less than \$38,000 for the sound system for the area covered by Phases 2 and 3. It was noted some money was left and the sound system could be included in the cost for Phases 2 and 3 being done this summer. Coshow made a motion to proceed with the sound system for Second Street. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Tim Baker had found a deed for the area of the Quonset hut building used by the City Water Department and also the Parks & Recreation Maintenance building located on Grant Street which the Adams County Regional Sewer District (ACRSD) is interested in purchasing. The property had been deeded to the City in 1952. Attorney Baker informed the Board members that the statute does not require going through a long process to sell the land to the ACRSD since it is another governmental entity. No appraisals are necessary and the two (2) entities need to negotiate a price that is acceptable to both parties. Coshow made a motion for the Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert to proceed with working with the ACRSD for sale of the property. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Fullenkamp made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:32 P.M.