

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
August 2, 2022

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. Members present were Craig Coshow, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the July 19, 2022 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda dealt with a code enforcement regarding 133 Selkirk Lane, Decatur. Brad Roe, Assistant Building Supt./Code Enforcement Officer, and Nathan Scherer from the Adams County Health Department appeared, and Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, (by phone) to inform Board members the process they were following regarding the condemned residence which needed immediate action. It was shared that the code enforcement issue has been ongoing since June 4, 2021 following the Health Department's condemnation of the home in March of 2021. Numerous contacts to the owners, Jason and Sondra Hausauer have been made with little action and several complaints from neighbors. It was mentioned that the City had even mowed the yard once to help the owner, but no further action was taken by the owner to keep the yard mowed. Currently the house is infested with cockroaches which are moving to neighboring buildings. Following several attempts to get cooperation a July 15, 2022 deadline was ordered by the Health Department to clean up the property and exterminate. Orkin went to the property and the owner denied the service. Scherer, Roe and Witte's plans are to get a locksmith to get keys in order to enter the home and proceed with extermination. Scherer noted the floors will likely need to be taken up and also it is unknown what the cockroach situation is within the walls. The problem has caused neighbors to hire exterminators. City Attorney Anne Razo stated that Code Enforcement has the ability to proceed after giving notice to the Board of Public Works and Safety members regarding the situation being one of an immediate danger. Scherer shared that no one can live in the home and noted that the City has more power to work on the problem than the County ordinance provides. Brad Roe commented that they would begin work on solving the issue tomorrow, August 3, 2022.

Next on the agenda was Deputy Police Chief Chris Brite regarding an update to the Vehicle Towing Policy in the Decatur Police Department's SOP manual. The update is necessary to make the policy a little more uniform, and is similar to what other departments have. Deputy Chief, Brite informed the Board that both the City Attorney and the Prosecutor have reviewed the policy. Each Officer will be given a copy of the new policy. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the new Vehicle Towing Policy for the Police Department. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before the Board regarding approval of change orders and Pay App#3 with VTF Excavation for the Homestead Drainage Project. Gilbert shared that the change orders were minor changes that had not been realized in the original document. The change orders resulted in a total cost of \$5,773.83. Pay App #3 with the change orders totaled \$129,970.90. Coshow made a motion to approve Pay App#3 with the change orders to VTF Excavation for the Homestead Drainage Project. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert noted the Street Sweeping Agreement with INDOT is updated every few years. The agreement is a non-negotiable agreement in which INDOT pays the City \$360.00 per curb mile for a total of \$2,376.00 per year to sweep US 27 for 4.3 curb miles, and US 224 for 2.3 curb

miles totaling 6.6 miles. Each location is cleaned a minimum of two (2) per year, which is actually done more often by the City. The City submits an invoice to the State each year, which certifies that the services have been provided. The term of the contract is for 48 months and is effective until June 30, 2025. Coshow made a motion to accept the Street Sweeping Agreement with INDOT, and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office for the newly hired firefighter, Nick Patton a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Coshow then made a motion to make the Conditional Employment Contract with the new firefighter Nick Patton a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets sought permission to remove Firefighter Bryan Braun from probationary status, and adjust his salary to a 1st Class Firefighter. Fullenkamp made a motion to remove Firefighter Bryan Braun from probationary status, and adjust his salary to a 1st Class Firefighter. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Fire Chief Sheets shared that with the various changes in the department as a result of retirements and so forth, a shift supervisor position became open. Chief Sheets announced that Mitch Baumann will serve as shift supervisor which entails added responsibilities but no pay increase.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make John Baker's retirement letter from the Water Department a matter of record. Motion seconded by Coshow. Motion was carried. It was shared that Baker worked for the Water Department for 10 years, with his last work day was Friday, July 29, 2022.

Mayor Rickord shared a request for the Belmont Cadet Youth Football League to use the outdoor field at the MERIT Center for practices and games, and may locate a portable storage unit on the premises for storing league equipment. Their season is from August 8, 2022 to October 20, 2022. The Memorandum of Agreement includes receiving priority of scheduling on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and with potentially Saturday and Sundays. Tenants of the MERIT Center will have priority use over outdoor playground equipment during their normal hours of operation. Fullenkamp made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with the Belmont Cadet Youth Football League to use the outdoor field at the MERIT Center. Seconded by Coshow, 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 6:37 P.M.