

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 7:15 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, Scott Murray were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo. Councilman Wylie Sirk was absent.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the August 1, 2023 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp then made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. Mayor Rickord explained the reason for the Public Hearing regarding Resolution 2023-16, a resolution for an additional appropriation to use \$60,000 of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds towards the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Effluent Outfall Sewer Replacement Project. The Mayor asked for any comments from the public. There were no comments received. Coshow made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to reconvene the Council meeting. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion for the legal notice for the Public Hearing for the additional appropriation a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2023-16, a resolution to authorize an additional appropriation of \$60,000 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds towards the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Effluent Outfall Sewer Replacement Project, was brought forward. Coshow made a motion to introduce Resolution 2023-16 by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2023-16 by short title only. Coshow made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-16. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Community Coordinator, Jamie Gephart presented a couple of event forms. The first was for an Antique Car Show sponsored by the Adams County Historical Society for September 10, 2023 with a request to close a portion of 5th Street to Monroe St. Dyer made a motion to accept the Historical Society's Antique Car Show event and the street closing. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The second event was to reschedule a concert that had be cancelled due to weather, and has been rescheduled for September 21, 2023 on the Madison Street Plaza. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the rescheduling of the concert to September 21, 2023. Seconded by Murray the motion was adopted.

Community Coordinator, Jamie Gephart gave an update regarding the Patronicity fund raiser as she announced \$53,059 had been raised and with the \$50,000 match being provided, the total was \$103,059. The City has a year to spend those funds, but they would likely be used by

the end of the year with projects already in place such as the dog park, stocking the pond, and the softball field in Kekionga Park.

City Attorney Razo explained that Wastewater Supt., Karey Fuelling had sent her modifications to clarify the table headings to reflect system development fee rates are based on the water line size to be connected, as the current table headings do not distinguish between water and sewer in the City Code of Ordinances. The City Attorney presented Ordinance 2023-12, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 54 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, as supplemented, to amend the table headings in Section 54.177 (c). Coshow made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-12 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-12 by short title only. Coshow made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-12 on its first reading. Seconded by Fullenkamp, a roll call vote showed passage by 4-0 with Sirk being absent. Coshow made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-12 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-12 by short title only. Coshow made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-12 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call showed a 4-0 passage. Coshow made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2023-12 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-12 by short title only. Coshow made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-12 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Fullenkamp, a roll call vote was held and the ordinance passed with a 4-0 vote with Sirk being absent.

Jeremy Gilbert had received a request from a City resident, Tim Walchle for a handicap parking space in front of his home at 350 S. 3rd Street. The City Attorney presented Ordinance 2023-14, an ordinance which amends Chapter 78, Schedule III of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, as supplemented, regarding handicapped parking spaces. Coshow made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-13 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-13 by short title only. Coshow made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-13 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and roll call vote passed 4-0 with Sirk being absent. Coshow made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-13 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-13 by short title only. Coshow made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-13 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and a roll call vote showed passage with a 4-0 vote. Coshow made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-13 until the next meeting on September 5th. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried.

City Attorney Anne Razo informed Council that she had been contacted by Steve Kreigh to prepare the fiscal plan for an upcoming annexation for Cross Creek to be presented to the Council. It was noted the cost to prepare the plan will be shared by the City and the Developer. Attorney Razo was seeking permission from Council to proceed with preparing the plan. Coshow made a motion to permit Attorney Razo to proceed with the preparation of the Fiscal Plan for the annexation of a portion of Cross Creek addition. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright informed Council that she has received some invoices pertaining to the Haunted Trail event to be held this fall, and requested if Council is wanting to pay these items again from their promotional account. Dyer made a motion to set aside \$1,000 for needed items for the Haunted Trail. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The Mayor received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce requesting financial support towards the Kekionga Festival. Murray made a motion to support the event at the same level of

funding as last year. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. Coshow abstained from voting.

Next on the agenda was the review of the 2024 Budget Form 1's. It was shared that a 3% wage increase had been included for city employees, and additional wage increases for the police department. At the previous meeting, the Clerk-Treasurer had provided to the Council members the proposed budget form 1's for their review. A discussion was then opened as each Department Head appeared before the Council to note any budget changes or answer any questions. Few questions were asked and it was noted that majority of the increases were due to inflation for such things as supplies, fuel, and any contracted projects. With the many projects within the MVH-Street budget, it was suggested to move the dump truck chassis from MVH-Street budget to possibly share the cost with the utilities or another fund within the City budget. There were several paving projects for City parking lots budgeted in the Rainy Day fund, and Council requested to only include the parking lots at the MERIT Center, and the City lot between 2nd and 3rd Street into the budget. When reviewing the LIT-Public Safety budget, Councilman Fullenkamp recommended an agreement be established on how the funds should be spent between the Police Department and the Fire Department. It was suggested for the City Attorney to work with the Clerk-Treasurer, the Mayor and the Police & Fire Chief's to establish an agreement. In the LIT-Economic Development (CEDIT) fund, the Mayor noted that it had previously been mentioned to include \$50,000 for the Façade program. Due to the additional pay increase and benefits for the Police Department, the Police Pension fund, which includes the current police officers and the retired police officers pension benefits, money is set aside for death benefits also, and three (3) of the retirees are of an age that those benefits may be needed. It is estimated that the Police Pension fund to be short by the end of 2024. After a lengthy discussion, the Clerk-Treasurer will look at possible funding options to see if the death benefits that are paid from the Police Pension fund can be paid from another fund and share any results with the Council members. The total proposed 2024 budgets is \$13,800,759 which is an increase of \$1,981,099 over the 2023 budgets, which also includes the American Rescue Plan Local Fiscal Recovery Grant funds that need to be allocated by the end of 2024. It was mentioned that the ARP Grant funds could possibly be used for the storage building to be built on Elm Street at the Public Works site.

Department Heads:

Fire Chief, Jeff Sheets thanked the public for attending the department's Back-to-School event.

Utilities Auditor, Kevin Hackman shared that with more people receiving their utility bill via email, some individuals may need to have their due date changed in order to keep the number of bills going out to receive the bulk mailing rate. Hackman will be sending out letters to notify residents if their due date is changed.

Council Input:

Coshow noted a concert will be held Thursday evening on Madison Street Plaza, and that Germanfest will be held this weekend.

Coshow 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, Fullenkamp made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 8:51 P.M.