

SPECIAL MEETING  
CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 24, 2022

A Special Meeting of the City of Decatur Common Council was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 4:45 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 Councilmen Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo.

Others attending the meeting were Police Chief, Lennie Corral, Deputy Police Chief, Chris Brite, Sergeants, Mark Cook and Luke Rumschlag, and Captain of the Police Reserve, John Summers. Fire Chief, Jeff Sheets, Deputy Fire Chief, Jim Hitchcock, Firefighters, James Clark and Bryan Braun. Adams County Sheriff, Dan Mawhorr, Deputy Sheriff, Eric Beer. Bob Shraluka from The Decatur Daily Democrat, and Jim Langham from The Berne Witness.

The Special Common Council meeting had been properly posted and the media notified at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting were suspended until the regularly scheduled meeting to be on September 6, 2022.

The purpose of the Special meeting was to discuss employees pay and longevity for the 2023 budget year.

The Police Chief, Lennie Corral approach Council to request additional increases to longevity for all the police officers to have the wages be comparable to the Adams County Sheriff's Department, in hopes to keep the younger officers from leaving the department, and to keep from hiring new officers. This longevity change would also impact the cost of the pensions for the current officers and the retiree's that are on the 1925 pension plan. The City's total cost to make the longevity changes for the police officers also includes the \$1.50 per hour raise for all full-time employees is estimated at an additional \$120,000.

After Council had reviewed the proposed 2023 budgets (Form 1's) that were presented at the August 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer had calculated the budget with the estimated revenues and DLGF's estimated property tax caps of \$730,000 for 2023, the Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that she had met with the Mayor to go over the proposed 2023 budget to see what changes could be made, since when calculating the proposed budgets, the General fund's operating balance had a negative balance. The Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that the Mayor suggested cutting items from the Common Council budget first, but it still wasn't enough. The Clerk-Treasurer also moved the other half of the City's cost share for the Community Crossings Match Grant (CCMG) from the Rainy Day fund to be paid from the MVH-Restricted funds. The biggest impact was using the general fund cash balance to pay for the 5-Points Improvements Project, which construction is to begin in 2023. The engineers estimated cost for the city is \$585,000.

Council then went through the 2023 budget and suggested paying the 5-Points Improvements Project from other funds, rather than paying the project from the general fund. Suggested changes were using \$100,000 budgeted for other capital projects in the Redevelopment Commission budget, (which will also need the Commission members approval), \$50,000 from the Riverboat Fund, and \$100,000 from Rainy Day Fund that had been budgeted for various sidewalk improvements, and \$155,000 budgeted for Economic Development Projects and \$50,000 budgeted for Capital Improvements/facades from LIT-Economic Development fund (formerly CEDIT fund).

Deputy Police Chief, Chris Brite inquired if the longevity increases could possibly be paid from the LIT-Public Safety fund. The Deputy Chief was advised that when the LIT-Public Safety fund was established the intent was to use the funds towards large expenses for the Police and Fire Departments rather than paying these from the General fund. Also, the debt for the new Police station is being paid from the LIT-Public Safety, and once this debt is paid, there may be another debt for a new fire station. Councilman Sirk noted that the distributions for the LIT-Public Safety can fluctuate, so it is best to pay wages from the General fund. Sheriff Mawhorr commented that the County currently pays the wages for the County Deputies from LIT-Public Safety, but this may need to change due to raises, etc., since over time this fund may be depleted.

Council suggested that the Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer and Department Heads meet to see if there are any other possible changes that can be made in the General fund.

There being no further business. Councilman Fullenkamp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Dyer. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.