

City of Decatur  
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes  
September 6, 2022

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on September 6, 2022 at 6:00 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 August 16, 2022 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes from August 16, 2022. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Fire Marshal, Tony Lothridge regarding approval for the contract with Brycer, LLC for software to be used for fire alarms and sprinkler testing which would allow for testing from the department rather than going to each location. There is no cost to the City for this software. The Board of Works members had previously approved for the Fire Department to proceed with this software at the July 19, 2022 meeting. But now need the contract with Brycer, LLC to be signed and approved. Coshow made a motion to approve the contract with Brycer and authorize the Fire Marshal to sign the contract. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Asst. Building and Zoning Supt., Brad Roe with code enforcement issues at a couple of locations. The first issue was at 220 N. 6th Street with owner Ashley Garcia who was in attendance. The first complaint was for weeds, rubbish, trash and debris filed on July 25, 2022 with the notice to abate issued and delivered by the City Police on July 27, 2022. Ms. Garcia was notified again on August 11, 2022. Asst. Supt. Roe shared quite a bit of improvement had been made but additional work was needed. The building department will continue working with Ms. Garcia who stated that her mower was broken, but plans to do more work this evening. Roe will check the status of the work at the end of the week.

The second code enforcement concerned is at 321 Stevenson Street, owned by Gerald and Tonni Murphy. A complaint regarding vegetation, trash, and debris was received on July 14, 2022. A notice of abatement was issued on July 22, 2022. Inspections on the property showed the yard had been mowed but not cleaned up. A second abatement notice was sent on August 31 which resulted in very little progress. It was shared by Ms. Murphy that she planned to put the trash out for heavy trash but she was told that the television that she had planned to put out would not be collected on heavy trash week. Ms. Murphy was given information to take the TV's to the solid waste location or to a location behind the laundromat located in the old Gerber's lot. Ms. Murphy stated that she had no mower and no time as she works 60 hours a week. Ms. Murphy was given to the end of next week to have the property cleaned up, and Building & Zoning Superintendent, Curt Witte inquired if she was open to having someone help her such as a high school student. If so, he would help her in locating someone to help with the mowing.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, then shared that he has received inquiries regarding the property at 710 Schirmeyer Street, which is owned by the City. Witte noted the City needs to decide if they want to keep the property or sell it. Witte mentioned that there are a couple of new homes being built on Schirmeyer Street, and the residents are pleased with the various improvements made in the area. Witte noted he will bring this issue before Council at their meeting later tonight.

Fullenkamp inquired about the need for bringing code enforcement issues before the Board of Public Works and Safety. City Attorney Anne Razo noted the ordinance sets the guidelines in that the people have a right to come in and explain why they can't get things done, and the Board of Public Works and Safety is the Board that has the authority for code enforcement. Witte added that the Board has given his department power to act without coming before the Board for issues with weeds and grass. However, the issues being brought before the Board include other items such as debris, car parts, and other nuisances.

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 6:28 P.M.