

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
September 21, 2021

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Tuesday, September 21, 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 September 7, 2021 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes. Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

First on the agenda was Police Chief Lennie Corral seeking approval to obtain a second K-9 on second shift. Chief Corral shared that the staff is made up of young officers who work the second shift when many drug arrests are occurring. There are three (3) K-9 Officers in the county, one (1) in the City and two (2) with the Sheriff's Department, if they happen to be out of the County for some reason, such as the case last week when all the handlers were out for training, there is a lack of K-9 assistance. Also, he mentioned that if the K-9 happens to be in Geneva and is needed in Decatur, the length of time to hold any individual becomes legally too long. Chief Corral remarked that Decatur is an animal friendly community as a local organization has given \$5,000 and individuals have given \$3,000 to \$5,000 to fund a dog that costs about \$7,000. The dog would be trained in Fort Wayne for a 14-week period at a cost of \$6,500 to \$7,000. Chief Corral noted the handler for the second K-9 would need to do fundraisers to pay for needs of the dog as Officer Hamm currently does for K-9 Ivar who is on duty during the first shift. Chief Corral informed the Board that K-9 Ivar is five (5) years old and normally K-9's last eight (8) to nine (9) years. Thus, with a second K-9 there would be an overlap if something happened to Ivar. Chief Corral also noted the chosen officer would need to sign a contract to stay with the department for a certain number of years. Mayor Rickord noted he sees the need for a second dog, especially with the age of Ivar. Chief Corral mentioned that there are three (3) officers that have already expressed a desire to be a handler for a second dog. Coshow made a motion to allow Chief Lennie Corral to proceed with getting a second K-9. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert was unable to attend the meeting, so Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright mentioned that Gilbert has been trying to get other quotes for railroad switch ties to repair the bridge that is part of the River Greenway Trail, but has not been successful, and would recommend waiving the requirement to solicit other quotes and purchase the ties from the railroad company. \$50,000 has been budgeted to make the repairs to the bridge in the CEDIT fund, but the total cost for the ties, and other materials and labor is estimated at \$62,590.30. The Clerk-Treasurer informed the Board that the East Monroe Street sidewalk project has been completed, and requested to use the remaining balance budgeted from this project towards the repairs to the bridge. Coshow made a motion to waive getting other quotes and allowing Gilbert to proceed with the repairs to the bridge and paying for them from the CEDIT fund. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Tim Baker informed the Board that he and Building and Zoning Superintendent Curt Witte had been working with the resident and the bank regarding an easement issue at 140 Brandywine Lane in Anthony Wayne Meadows. The resident is in the process of selling the home and had no idea regarding the easement issue as they have lived in the home since it was built. They are currently ready to close on the sale of the home which was built in 1975. The bank is requesting that the City acknowledge that the sewer line runs north of the residential structure and not underneath the residential structure and that the City has determined that it can maintain the sewer despite the encroachment by the resident in writing by a Utility Easement Encroachment Agreement, which the City Attorney has prepared. Witte

prepared a letter stating that there have not been any issues with either the sanitary sewer line or the gas line in the last 46 years, and these lines can be accessed, he is recommending no action to be taken on the city's behalf unless further evidence of a violation or other issues are brought forward. Coshow made a motion to make a matter of record the letter provided by Building and Zoning Superintendent Curt Witte and that the Encroachment Agreement be accepted and signed by Mayor Rickord. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. The City Attorney will have the property owner sign the agreement and have the document recorded.

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

Adjournment was at 6:25 P.M.