

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 4, 2022

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 4, at 7:40 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 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.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was County Commissioners Stan Stoppenhagen and Rex Moore, and Michelle Lengerich, Director of the Council on Aging, and Council on Aging Board President Pat Sefton. Stoppenhagen mentioned that he had discussed previously with the Mayor and Councilman Fullenkamp about having a long-term lease agreement between the City and Council on Aging at the MERIT Center. The future plans for Council on Aging includes extended programs and building a garage for their vehicles, especially for those vehicles with lifts as they need to run continually for the lifts to work as they are parked in the open during the cold weather. Mayor Rickord commented that the biggest hurdle is that City Council members needs to take a look at the future use of the MERIT Center building. The Mayor stated that he totally understands why a long-term lease would be preferred and suggested an executive meeting to talk things through might be beneficial for all concerned. Having the Council on Aging in the building is a positive for the City, since Council on Aging helps with administration of the building. It was shared that there is a possibility for public transportation to be available for all residents through an INDOT program as early as 2024, and would be ran through the County. Commissioner Stoppenhagen shared that the County is hesitant to build a \$100,000 garage without a long-term lease. The City Attorney noted that it would be permissible to discuss this in an Executive Session since it is relating to a real property transaction. It was decided by consensus to hold an Executive Session on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers and include the various parties involved.

Michelle Lengerich, Director of the Council on Aging sought \$3,000 from Council to add to the \$7,000 she received from the Adams County Community Foundation IMPACT grant for a handicap restroom at the MERIT Center, which would be a benefit to the City in the future. Dyer made a motion to provide \$3,000 from Council's repairs and maintenance account to assist in the construction of a handicap restroom in the MERIT Center. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator received an event application from North Adams Community Schools for a Braves, Brew & BBQ event on Madison Street Plaza from 5-6:30 p.m. on October 26, 2022. It was noted there was a request to have a portion of 1st Street closed during the event and that the group will also be renting The HIVE which will feature activities and food.

Dyer made a motion to approve the event and street closing for October 26, 2022 from North Adams Community Schools. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion approving the \$20,000 match fund-raising project with Patronicity for a Dog Park as recommended by the Board of Public Works and Safety members earlier at their meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2022-15, an ordinance to establish the salaries to be paid to the City Elected Officials for the year 2023 was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-15 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-15 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2022-16, an ordinance fixing the salaries and wages for City employees for the year 2023 was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-16 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2022-16 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-16 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2022-17, an ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates of the City's 2023 Budget, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-17 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-17 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-17 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Coshow, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

The Clerk-Treasurer noted that there were two (2) questions added by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to the Budget Ordinance this year, which the City Attorney read aloud, which were whether the City intends to issue debt after December 1 and before January 1, and if the City intends to file a shortfall appeal after December 1 and before December 31. By consensus, Council answered no to both questions.

Ordinance 2022-18, an ordinance which establishes a K-9 #3 non-reverting fund, and authorizes donations and other revenues to be deposited into said fund for the care and maintenance of the K-9 #3 police dog was brought forward. This third K-9 police dog will be in coordination with North Adams Community School Corporation for use by the School Resource Officer. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-18 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-18 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-18 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote passed with at 5-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-18 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2022-18 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-18 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed passage with a 5-0 margin. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2022-18 until the October 18, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Building and Zoning Supt., Curt Witte appeared before the Council regarding the 50-50 sidewalk program. Witte reported that there are 17 signed contracts, but progress is slow since it is hard getting contractors and concrete. It was also noted that the price has gone up three (3) times

already and it is anticipated it will increase again. Witte informed Council that more than likely they will need to encumber funds to use in 2023 for the contracts not fulfilled in 2022.

Coshow requested permission of adding a lean-to on the Monroe Street Water Plant over the concrete pad to be used for bands during the 4th of July Fireworks event. The supplies will be donated and no cost to the City. Sirk made a motion to approve adding the lean-to on the property. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to make a matter of record the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement from Water Dept. employee, Ryan Parr whose spouse, Karla Parr owns Dusty Road Printing and has contracted with the City to make recycling signs. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Department Heads Input:

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets announced the Open House will be held at the Fire Station tomorrow evening.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator announced the Cutest Baby Contest is being held in cooperation with Callithumpian activities and is located in City Hall with a fee of \$1 for each vote. Gephart also shared that the Haunted Trail event will begin next Friday at a cost of \$5. She noted people should be prepared for a good and scary trail.

Council Input:

Sirk shared that the Callithumpian Brochure is out, and also the Historical Museum will be having a Haunted House event.

Coshow thanked all who were involved during the recently Highland Games event which went well.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 8:30 P.M.