

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2021

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 6:27 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 Matt Dyer and Wylie Sirk were present. Tyler Fullenkamp by remote, who could be seen and heard. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Tim Baker. Councilmen Craig Coshow and Scott Murray were absent.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the October 5, 2021 meeting. Sirk made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Colton Bickel, Director of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC). Bickel noted he had a goal to update the various governmental entities on a regular basis. He shared that the ACEDC had developed a new Vision and Mission and would be revealing a new logo and website in the near future. Bickel highlighted the ACEDC's actions through the first two quarters of 2021 and shared the anticipated actions to be taken during the third and fourth quarters. Topics for the first two quarters were Attraction (of new businesses), Business Retention/Expansion (trying to fill needs of existing employment base), Unemployment rate (one of the lowest rates in the State), RLF Loans (\$345,000.00 to local businesses), READI Grant (made application using a steering committee which was formed), Re-Brand (the ACEDC has gone under a complete re-brand with a new logo and website), and other items, which included a Broadband survey, Early Learning Coalition, and M.E.R.I.T. Center. Bickel shared the goals of the third and fourth quarters include the area of Attraction, BRE, and other areas including a Housing Subcommittee, the M.E.R.I.T. Center and ACEDC Re-brand. Bickel reported that Dr. Kim Barnett-Johnson, Chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College, had been at the M.E.R.I.T. Center this afternoon with approximately 40 people in attendance. The Bellmont football team and National Honor Society members, along with other volunteers, had worked during a clean-up day on Saturday, October 9, 2021. Bickel and Mayor Rickord both shared their appreciation of all the volunteers who helped in making the M.E.R.I.T. Center more attractive by clearing up all the weeds and so forth. Councilman Sirk appreciated the support and noted the youth did an excellent job of pitching in with no complaints and that he enjoyed working with the young people.

City Attorney Tim Baker noted that Ordinance 2021-12, the ordinance which amends Section 33.085 of Chapter 33 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015 regarding fees to be charged by the Decatur Police Department for inspections and production of records needs to be amended. In order to place Ordinance 2021-12 on its third and final reading and make the needed amendments, a super majority of the Council members need to be in attendance. Thus, with the absence of some of the Council members, Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2021-12 until the November 2, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried.

The City had a K9 fund since the late 1990's but no ordinance was on file to establish such fund, so by the recommendation of the State Board of Accounts the City Attorney prepared Ordinance 2021-16, an ordinance to ratify the current K9 non-reverting fund which authorizes donations and other revenues to be deposited for the care and maintenance of the K9 #1 dog was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-16 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-16 by short title only.

Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-16 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and passed 3-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-16 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-16 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-16 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed passage by a 3-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2021-16 until the November 2, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried.

The Police Chief had received prior approval to purchase a second K9 with another Officer to be the handler of the dog, so the City Attorney prepared a second Ordinance. Ordinance 2021-17, an ordinance which establishes a K9 #2 non-reverting fund and authorizes donations and other revenues to be deposited into said fund for the care and maintenance of the K9 #2 dog was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-17 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-17 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-17 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed passage by a 3-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-17 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion carried and City Attorney Tim Baker read Ordinance 2021-17 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2021-17 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote showed passage with a 3-0 vote. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2021-17 until the November 2, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was carried.

Mayor Rickord introduced Emily Lairson as the Director of the HIVE, and that she is doing a wonderful job for the HIVE and is a great artist. Ms. Lairson shared that she is from Berne and is currently living in Geneva. She noted she has been meeting some fantastic local artists. She announced that there will be a Fall Show on Friday, October 22 and Monday, October 25, 2021 from 4-9 P.M. at the HIVE. The Show will feature various art mediums. Mayor Rickord commented that Ms. Lairson has been a great addition. Regarding the artist lofts, Dyer mentioned that he and Community Coordinator, Jamie Gephart have been asked to be included in the interview process for potential loft residents.

An event form was received from the Decatur Main Street for a Zombie Pub Crawl Pre-Party event to be held on Madison Street Plaza on Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. They will need the restrooms and electricity. They will have an officer on duty. Dyer made a motion to approve the event on the Plaza. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord shared that a Manufacturing Day had been held on Friday, October 15, 2021 as students from Belmont and South Adams schools toured various local manufacturing facilities. He noted several students will be looking for employment following graduation and this gave them a great opportunity to see what each manufacturer is doing.

Mayor Rickord reported that he has been getting calls from residents regarding yard waste collection. City residents need to be patient as the workers are trying to keep up with the seasonal switch. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, noted that residents could call his office if yard waste is not picked up or they can use the compost site on Jackson Street if they so desired.

City Attorney Tim Baker is working on the Memorandum of Agreement for the M.E.R.I.T. Center between the City and the Adams County Council on Aging. Attorney Baker noted he had talked with Michelle Lengerich, Director of the Council on Aging and that the effective date should be November 15, 2021 as that is the day the Council on Aging will be moving into the MERIT Center.

The City, County, and Council on Aging will all need to sign the Agreement. Plans are to have the Memorandum of Agreement prepared for the November 2, 2021 meeting.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Lennie Corral reported that their cleaning person at the DPD, Jill Busse, had passed away. He noted that Ms. Busse was a great lady and like a mother to the Officers. She will be missed greatly. Chief Corral announced that Saturday, October 23, 2021 is the 20th anniversary of the death of Officer Wyss, and the annual golf outing in his honor will be held on Saturday, October, 23, 2021.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared that the 2nd Street Streetscapes project is going well and plans are to have everything cleaned up by Friday, October 22, 2021. Gilbert also noted the department is busy with fall work. He noted the leaves are going to be late in falling and hopes the snow is not early. Gilbert also mentioned that there are problems at the compost site with individuals dumping things that should not be there. He asked for people to keep their eyes open regarding who is dumping things there and call his department if they see anything. If the problem continues, a camera may need to be placed at the compost site. Gilbert also mentioned that Friday, October 22, 2021 is the deadline for applications for the open positions in the department.

Fire Chief Les Marckel announced the Fire Department's Open House will be held tomorrow evening, October 20, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:30 P.M. He encouraged parents to bring their children to the event. Chief Marckel also shared that the Survive Alive program for 4th graders will be held during the month of November. All schools in Adams County have signed up to participate. Also, they are bringing their 5th graders this year since they were unable to have the program last year because of COVID-19. Thus, 1500 to 1800 students will participate in Survive Alive in November, 2021.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor, reported that the water main work is moving along well in Berne and the water main extension on 500 W is moving along and should be tied in by the end of this week.

Council Input:

Sirk made a motion to pay the claims. 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 Sirk, the motion passed.

Adjournment was at 7:12 P.M.