

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2022

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 6:50 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 October 25, 2022 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

First on the agenda, Mayor Rickord shared that the Mayor's Youth Council was finally getting started. Approximately 20 students had applied and twelve (12) were chosen, representing grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 with more from the senior class chosen this year. Four students: Brianna Converset, grade 9; Emma Key, grade 10; Victoria Hamrick, grade 11; and Sydney Keane, grade 12, attended this evening's meeting. Plans are for the students to attend the Redevelopment Commission, Council, and Park Board meetings to share their ideas and concerns. Mayor Rickord thanked the four (4) for attending this evening's meeting and noted the plans are for them to start getting involved in December. The students each gave their reason for wanting to be involved in being on the Mayor's Youth Council.

A Public Hearing had been advertised for this evening regarding additional appropriations for the Public Arts Fund and also the ARP Grant fund. Thus, Coshow made a motion to suspend the Council Meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Coshow then made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed.

The Clerk-Treasurer explained the reason for the Public Hearing is needed to notify the taxpayers of the additional appropriations that is in excess of the budget for the current year. The request is for repairs and maintenance to City owned sculptures to be paid from the Public Arts Fund in the amount of \$4,500.00. The other request is \$115,724.30 from the ARP grant fund to purchase additional trash and recycling containers for residents. There was no input from the public either pro or con, so Coshow made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was carried.

Coshow then made a motion to reopen the Council Meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2022-17, a resolution for additional appropriations for the Public Arts Fund and the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Fund, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2022-17 by short title only. Seconded by Coshow, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2022-17 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-17. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to make the publication of the Public Hearing regarding the additional appropriations a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

It was noted that the Mayor and Council have several appointments to make to various boards that will be expiring at the end of the year. The Mayor's appointments are to the Decatur Redevelopment Commission, 1-year terms, those currently serving are Ron Storey, Max Miller, and Jeremy Friedt. Also, the Alcoholic Beverage Commission 1-year term, currently serving is Patrick "Pete" Braun. Plan Commission 4-year terms, currently serving is Dave Schnitz and Steve Hakes. City Park Board 2-year term, currently serving is Alex Ainsworth. Council members appointments are to the Decatur Redevelopment Commission 1-year terms, currently serving is Larry Isch and John "Craig" Russett. Also, to the Board of Zoning Appeals 4-year term, currently serving is Dave Haggard. The Mayor and Council members will announce at the November 15th Council meeting their appointments to the various boards to take effect January 1, 2023.

Mayor Rickord shared that he had been talking with Belmont High School wrestling coach about a possible event on Madison Street Plaza. However, nothing definite had been set. Dyer made a motion to allow Mayor Rickord to proceed with an event if final plans are made. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

In the absence of Chief of Police Lennie Corral, permission was requested to pay for the new police vehicle to be driven by Officer Elwell to pay out of the normal claim cycle. Sirk made a motion to approve the expenditure. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was approved.

Department Heads Input:

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared that the Trick or Treat event held on Saturday at Safety Village was attended by 680 youngsters during the two (2) hour event. Chief Sheets also shared that the Survive Alive House event for students started today and he invited Council members to attend one of the sessions.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager has worked with the Redevelopment Commission for the last 1 ½ years as they have worked for safety improvements of signalization, sidewalks, and handicap ramps at the Bollman and 13th Street entrance. The project is in partnership with INDOT. He thanked the owner of Bixler Insurance for their cooperation and shared that's an example of the work done by the Redevelopment Commission and the work is slated to start tomorrow.

Gilbert also reported that the Community Crossing Matching Grant paving work has been completed and came in under budget.

Gilbert shared that work continues regarding the new trash collection system. He reminded residents that they need to have their containers out by 7 a.m. Also, collection can only be made on one side of the street so collection times will change for several areas. Gilbert noted it is hoped a complete changeover can be made within the next week or week and a half. He encouraged people to call with any questions. Gilbert shared that recycling collections have grown greatly going from 600 previously to over 1,700 so far.

Building and Zoning Superintendent Curt Witte shared that a half-dozen contracts for sidewalk work will be reassigned. He noted there will be sidewalks on both sides of Bollman Street. Witte also shared that Taylor Gage has agreed to honor bids accepted by Liter and noted with concrete prices increasing the City will likely take a hit on some of the projects.

Council Input:

Dyer thanked all who helped make the Callithumpian Parade event, especially those who had everything cleaned up so rapidly as the streets were completely cleared by morning.

Sirk 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 Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:30 P.M.