

City of Decatur  
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes  
November 8, 2023

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. 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 October 17, 2023 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion about the amount due for fire protection for 2024 from Union Township Advisory Board members Scott Marbach and Jessica Roemer. It was mentioned that the Union Township Trustee and the Advisory Board members have failed to adopt a new budget for 2024, so it is under the budget adopted for 2023, which does not have the needed amount due to the City for fire protection. Mayor Rickord shared that the amount due to the City is based on the assessed valuation of the Union Township. It was noted that the fire contract will need to be signed before the first of two payments is due on June 15, 2024, the second half is due December 15, 2024. The Advisory Board was informed that they could possibly transfer funds within the township's budget to pay for the fire protection as determined by the City. The Union Township Advisory Board members wanted to make the City aware that they do have enough funds to pay the first half, and to be confirmed that fire protection will still be provided to the township. The Board of Works members assured them that they would still have fire protection, and will work with them until they can get their budget issues resolved.

Next on the agenda was to award the softening salt bids for 2024, which were opened on October 17, 2023 and taken under advisement by Utilities Auditor Kevin Hackman to review. Hackman recommended taking the lowest bid, which was \$134.75 per ton from Mid-American Salt. Fullenkamp made a motion to proceed with Hackman's recommendation. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Prior to opening the bids for the City farm leases, Coshow made a motion to make the publication for requesting bids for the City's farm leases a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord opened the bids, and the City Attorney, Anne Razo read the bids aloud for the City farm leases. Once bids were opened, bidders present had an opportunity to increase their bid. Bids for the 600 North farm of 45.964 acres were first opened. Bidders were Jacob Campbell at \$150 per acre and the second bid opened was from Dan Workinger of Workinger Farms, Inc. at \$165 per acre. No additional bids were made, so Coshow made a motion to accept the bid of \$165 per acre from Dan Workinger of Workinger Farms, Inc. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Bids for the farm on 450 North of 27.65 acres were opened next. The first bid was from Craig and Mason Fruechte for \$265 per acre while Marco Development LLC presented a bid of \$295. Both bidders were present either in person or via a representative. After going back and forth, Craig and Mason Fruechte ended with the higher bid of \$360 per acre. Coshow made a motion to accept the Fruechte bid of \$360 per acre. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was the opening of bids for the replacement of the heating and cooling systems at the MERIT Center. Coshow made a motion to make the proof of publication for requesting bids a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord opened the one and only bid received, and the City Attorney, Anne Razo read the bid aloud, noting that all the proper paperwork had been filed with the bid from Dilling Group for replacement of the heating and cooling systems at the MERIT Center was \$605,395.00. Coshow made a motion for Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert to take the bid under advisement for review. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office for Taylor Gage regarding his appointment as a Captain with the Decatur Fire Department, effective November 5, 2023 a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before the Board regarding approval of the construction contract with INDOT for the 5-Points Improvement Project, with 80% to be paid with federal funds and the City paying 20%. Funds have been budgeted in the LIT-Economic Development (CEDIT) fund for 2024. City Attorney Anne Razo noted that prior to INDOT letting for bids for this project, a resolution would need to be adopted. However, that is action to be taken later. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the construction contract with INDOT for the 5-Points Improvement Project and authorized Mayor Rickord to sign the contract. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Building and Zoning Superintendent, Curt Witte appeared before the Board regarding the possibility of a demolition order for 1034 Parkview Drive. Witte noted this property had been put on the back burner for a while as it was originally part of the flood buyout. It had actually been condemned a year ago. Witte noted that Rod Renkenberger, Director of the Maumee River Basin Commission had been trying to work with USDA to get clarification regarding the property, but is no longer an option. Witte noted he would send a notice to abate with 10 days to respond, and if nothing happens they will need to appear before the Board of Public Works and Safety.

Next, Witte reported that the property owned by Don and Yolanda Dale at 1103 Angus Drive had a large lien on the property due to nuisance violations has now been cleaned up as requested.

Next Witte informed the Board about a home at 133 N. 8th Street. Witte shared that the home had been recently purchased by Property Connexions, LLC. Witte has been in contact with the previous owner who had received quotes to demolish the home but the quotes were quite high. Witte has sought new quotes from contractors since the home is leaning towards the neighbor's home and this is not something the City could take down. The quotes received were from Luginbill for \$38,900, and from Advanced at \$18,961. Witte suggested sharing these quotes with the current owner. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow Witte to proceed with sharing the quotes with the current owner and explain what needs to be done and giving them 10 days to fix up the property or remove the building. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert who presented a quote, which is the state bid to purchase a new truck for the water department. The 2008 Ford Explorer that is currently being used by the meter reader has been recommended for replacement by the City Mechanic. The quote is from Kelley for a 2024 Chevy Silverado 2500 to be purchased from Water Operating funds in the amount of \$51,001. Fullenkamp made a motion to proceed with the purchase of a truck for the water department. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. The new truck will be used for meter reading and a service vehicle. The disposing of the 2008 Ford Explorer will be determined at a future meeting.

The Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert also requested to purchase a work bed utility box to carry equipment for the 2022 Ford F350 that was purchased last December for the Water Department. The truck is used as the on-call vehicle. Gilbert received two quotes from W.A. Jones of Columbia City, Indiana at \$11,259 and CM Truck Beds of Kingston, Oklahoma at \$11,779. Fullenkamp made a motion

for Gilbert to proceed with the purchase from W.A. Jones at \$11,259. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Gilbert also mentioned eventually getting rid of the 2005 Ford Escape that had been purchased for the Stormwater Department, which can be discussed at a future meeting.

Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the City's 2024 holiday schedule as presented, which includes the same holidays, but may fall on different days as the 2023 schedule. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber appeared before the Board seeking approval of the general order on using the Decatur Police Department's fitness room. City Attorney Anne Razo noted the Chief has the authority to set the policy for the room. However, Attorney Razo noted a waiver policy needed to be adopted. Fullenkamp made a motion for Attorney Razo to move forward with drafting the appropriate waiver policy. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo brought up the need to approve the sketch of 0.67 acres, as per surveyed by Brett Miller and as defined in the County/City MOU at the MERIT Center. The sketch provides for an ingress/egress easement along with a use easement on the parking lot at the MERIT Center. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the 0.67 acres as defined and surveyed by Brett Miller. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. The City Attorney will communicate with Brett Miller of the Boards approval.

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

Adjournment was at 7:05 P.M.