

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 2022

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 6:45 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 Councilmen 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.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord introduced Sydney Keane and Victoria Hamrick as members of the Mayor's Youth Council who were attending the meeting this evening.

Ordinance 2022-20, an ordinance which vacated portions of an east-west alley located between 1115 and 1121 Elm Street, Decatur in Cook's 2nd Addition containing lots 509 and 510, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-20 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-20 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-20 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Coshow, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Attorney Razo noted that the City will properly record the alley transfer and forward a copy of the recorded Ordinance to Attorney Joe Johnson, III.

Sirk made a motion to make the letter of retirement from Cathy Diehl a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. Diehl's last work day will be December 9, 2022. The Mayor read Ms. Diehl's retirement letter who had served as a clerk for the utilities department. Mayor Rickord thanked Ms. Diehl for her years of service to the City. It was shared that Katie Baker Kowalczyk is currently training for the position.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent appeared before the Council regarding the properties at 710 Schirmeyer Street and 138 N. 2nd Street. 710 Schirmeyer Street is a vacant lot and two (2) appraisals have been received. In discussion of what to do with the property, Sirk made a motion declaring that the 710 Schirmeyer Street lot is surplus property. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. A discussion was then held regarding the pros and cons of having an auction or selling the property by sealed bids. Sirk made a motion to proceed to sell the 710 Schirmeyer Street lot via sealed bids with bidders having the option to increase their bid when the bids are opened. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. It was noted that the hope is to open the bids at the January 17, 2023 meeting but that could change.

Regarding the building at 138 N. 2nd Street, Sirk made a motion to table any action regarding that location at this time. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2022-18, a resolution to amend the ARP Plan to add \$10,000 to pay for the City's share of PERF for the bonus pay for employees, was brought forward. It was shared an additional \$10,000 is needed for Civil PERF payments. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2022-18 by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2022-18 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-18. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

At 7 p.m. it was noted that it had been advertised to hold a Public Hearing at 7 p. m. regarding an additional appropriation. Thus, Fullenkamp made a motion to suspend the Council meeting and open a Public Hearing. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Following the opening of the Public Hearing, City Attorney Anne Razo explained the reason for the additional appropriation was to cover the City's share of Civil PERF for the employees' bonus of \$10,000 to be added to the ARP Coronavirus Grant fund. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that likely \$5,000 will cover the cost for the CIVIL PERF, and not all \$10,000 may be needed, but wanted to make sure enough was in the fund to cover the cost. There being no one to testify for or against the additional appropriation, Sirk made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to reconvene the Council meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2022-19, a resolution for an additional appropriation for the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Fund of \$10,000 was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2022-19 by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2022-19 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-19. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make the legal notice of the Public Hearing for the additional appropriation a matter of record. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2022-21, an ordinance amending salary ordinance 2022-19 regarding the addition of COVID-19 Bonus Pay using ARP funds, was brought forward. The amendment references Resolution 2022-18 which includes the Civil PERF as part of the Bonus pay deduction. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-21 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed, and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-21 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-21 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-21 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2022-21 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-21 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote ended 5-0. Sirk made motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2022-21 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion was passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2022-21 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-21 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2022-22, an ordinance to add an additional holiday to the holiday schedule and amend Ordinance 2006-12 regarding the holiday duty compensation for Police Officers and

Firefighters, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-22 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-22 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-22 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-22 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2022-22 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-22 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2022-22 on third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2022-22 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-22 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2022-23, an ordinance to amend Ordinance 2022-16 to include Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a holiday for the year 2023, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-23 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed, and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2022-23 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-23 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, the roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2022-23 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2022-23 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-23 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2022-23 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2022-23 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-23 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed passage by a 5-0 vote.

City Attorney, Anne Razo noted that the Employees handbook will be updated to reflect the new holiday schedule in the near future.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before the Council with good news handing out a letter he received from INDOT stating that the City will be receiving \$937,460.25 match funds towards the 2022-2 Community Crossing Matching Grant Fund Program to pave an additional 13 streets for a total of \$1,249,947 which includes the City's matching funds. Gilbert shared that the funding received was 100% of the requested funding. Gilbert noted that this is a great program put together by Gov. Holcomb and INDOT. Gilbert mentioned that there is utility work in the areas that need to be done, and some of the streets that will be paved have not received any updates for 35 years or so. Councilman Sirk complimented Gilbert and his crew for what they have done to stay on top of this program. Mayor Rickord noted a thank you to Gov. Holcomb and INDOT for the continuation of this program. Gilbert shared he does not have plans to make application for the next round of funding with applications due in January.

Council was informed that there has been issues with the boiler at Riverside Center, which needs replaced. Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert had received quotes to cost approximately \$20,145. The Clerk-Treasurer recommended using the funds budgeted in the CCD fund that are remaining after the upgrade to the elevator in City Hall was completed since it's a City owned building. Fullenkamp made a motion to use the CCD fund to upgrade the boiler at the Riverside Center. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright announced the location of the Decatur Redevelopment Commission meeting for tomorrow evening will be held at Belmont High School, beginning at 5 p.m. The location change is due for the Commission members to take a tour of the school's CTE Program.

City Attorney Anne Razo noted that her law firm, DeVoss, Baker, Ainsworth & Razo also represent the Maumee River Basin Commission (MRBC) and asked for consent to serve as a representative for both the MRBC and the City for the remaining year of 2022 and for 2023. Sirk made a motion to give Attorney Razo and her law firm consent to represent both the MRBC and the City. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted. Ms. Razo also submitted a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. Sirk made a motion to make the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement a matter of record, Coshow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager reported that the Decatur Redevelopment Commission had a feasibility study done for 13th Street and Bollman Street areas, which were a priority for pedestrian upgrades, and this morning Milestone Contractors had completed their work in those areas, with Michiana Contractors having just a little more work to be done. Sidewalks and handicap ramps have been added to make the area much safer. Gilbert thanked the Redevelopment Commission for funding that project. Additional sidewalks are being provided for 11th and Bollman Street for safety and for ADA compliance.

Josh Zimmerman, Civil Infrastructure Manager shared that 1500 feet of sewer lines had been inspected with the sewer camera in the last few days. There are more issues at the former GE plant area, which he will be working on.

Karey Fuelling, Wastewater Superintendent noted she wanted to publicly thank all who assisted her department when a pump went down at the lift station this past week.

Council Input:

Councilman Coshow and Mayor Rickord expressed a special thanks to Ms. Baker, Ms. Graves, and Ms. Ray for all their efforts for the Lighting of the Christmas Tree event over the years and it was noted that they are passing the baton for next year.

Mayor Rickord noted he and Community Coordinator, Jamie Gephart and Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert are looking into getting new software for the Decatur website so citizens can report problems to the City.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Murray, 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 7:53 P.M.