

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
DECEMBER 7, 2021

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 6:45 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 Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Tim Baker.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the November 16, 2021 meeting. Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Sirk then made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council meeting that was held on Monday, November 29, 2021. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Opening the meeting Mayor Rickord shared that an Adams Central student, Mary Jones, had presented an AED device to the City during the opening of the REV Sports Complex as a project she is involved in. Another AED device will be placed on the Madison Street Plaza. Mayor thanked Mary Jones for contacting the City for the donation of the AED device.

Next on the agenda were Scott Marbach and Derryl Grote from the Union Township Lions Club. Representing the Club, they presented their 12<sup>th</sup> dry hydrant to Fire Chief Les Marckel for use by the Decatur Fire Department. The dry hydrant gives the fire department access to a water supply for fire fighting in rural areas outside the City water system. This dry hydrant will be located in the Kekionga Lake on Mercer Avenue across from Adams Memorial Hospital. In addition to the dry hydrant, the Club is donating three (3) sets of signs to be used to identify the various locations with the dry hydrants. Mayor Rickord and the Council members thanked the Union Township Lions Club for all the various organizations that they assist throughout Adams County.

Tony Lothridge, Fire Marshal/Assistant Building and Zoning Superintendent, and Fire Chief, Les Marckel appeared before Council regarding revisions to the City Code of Ordinances pertaining to Fire Prevention. An ordinance had been adopted in March, 2021 regarding the fees and that had been sent to the State for approval. The State had reviewed the ordinance and returned it with suggested changes. City Attorney shared that he had asked Attorney Anne Razo to work with Lothridge and they worked on what needed to be changed, which cleaned up duplication and add penalties to the Ordinance. A replacement for the current ordinance will be brought forth at the December 21, 2021 meeting. The new ordinance will include the revisions presented by Lothridge this evening as an attachment. Council members were asked to review the information presented by Lothridge in preparation for the December 21, 2021 meeting.

As recommended by the Board of Works members at their meeting was to encumber funds in the CEDIT budget for sidewalk improvements for Bollman and 11<sup>th</sup> Street was requested by Building and Zoning Supt., Curt Witte. By consensus, Council allowed encumbering funds to

2022 in the amount of \$49,350. The Clerk-Treasurer will prepare the encumbrance at the next council meeting.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, appeared before the Council for a question and answer period regarding the extension of Phase III Meadows of Cross Creek Re-plat. Witte had sent minutes from an earlier Plan Commission meeting regarding the area in question. Having gone through the ordinance regarding the process for re-platting issues, Witte shared that he learned that the Council needed to have an opportunity for input. Witte informed Council of a problem regarding snow removal for a cul-de-sac which has eight (8) homes rather than the normal four (4) or five (5) homes so the entire cul-de-sac is drive-way to drive-way with no vacant area for snow removal. The developer had been asked for input regarding the placement of snow and he responded with a plan that Witte feels is not acceptable as the only place for the snow is on the sidewalk and over fire hydrants. Thus, Witte plans to return the plan to the developer for further work. Witte noted the only way to clear the snow would be total removal which is added work and time involvement for City employees. Witte noted the Plan Commission will be meeting at 5 P.M. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 as the developer will appear for final approval of the project. Witte encouraged Council members to attend the December 21, 2021 Plan Commission meeting and share their input. Mayor Rickord commented that the issue needs settled for fire safety reasons and the need to stand up for City employees so they can do their jobs. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager commented that cul-de-sac areas are usually where snow removal is the greatest issue.

Action on the Certificates of Appointment for the members to the Decatur Redevelopment Commission were tabled until the December 21, 2021 meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright shared that she had received the 1782 Notice of the 2022 Budget from the DLGF, and all budgets were approved. Whitright asked Council if they wanted any changes as she previously emailed the 1782 notice to the Council members for their review. By consensus, Council did not request any changes. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the assessed valuation had increased \$7.7 million and the tax rate is \$1.19 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Mayor Rickord thanked Ms. Whitright for all her work in preparing the 2022 Budget.

Clerk-Treasurer Whitright informed Council that the State Board of Accounts has started the audit for years 2018, 2019 and a Federal audit of 2020. SBOA has requested that Mayor Rickord, the Utilities Auditor and a Council member, and she attend the Entrance Conference to be held on the second floor of City Hall at 9 A.M on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Coshow volunteered to be the Council member to attend the meeting.

Mayor Rickord introduced Josh Zimmerman as the new Civil Infrastructure Manager.

Mayor Rickord then announced that with City Attorney Tim Baker resigning at the end of the year he will be appointing Attorney Anne Razo to serve as the City Attorney beginning on January 1, 2022.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before Council regarding the grinding of concrete. It was noted that earlier a 40/20 share of the \$60,000 had been approved with \$40,000 from the water department and \$20,000 from the MVH-Street Fund. Gilbert requested if funds are available in what is left in the MVH-Street 2021 budget to encumber those funds for grinding more

of the concrete. It is estimated there is \$120,000 worth of concrete to be grinded. By consensus, Council approved encumbering funds for grinding additional concrete if funds are available.

#### Department Heads Input:

Police Chief Lennie Corral reported three (3) officers are out with COVID right now. He also reported that a grant of \$7,100 had been awarded for the new K-9, and that the high school students are building the kennel for the new K-9 and thanked them for their help.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager announced that next Friday, December 17, 2021 would be the last day for leaf collection. Gilbert thanked the City of Berne for their assistance by loaning equipment for leaf collection when the City's equipment broke down and repair parts are back ordered. Mayor Rickord commented that it is great to have the working relationship with the City of Berne.

Fire Chief Les Marckel shared that last week wrapped up the Survive Alive House program with the 4<sup>th</sup> graders of Adams County. It was also noted that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated this year since they missed the program last year due to COVID. Chief Marckel also mentioned the K-3 grades will soon be scheduled for the fire education program after the first of 2022.

Attorney Anne Razo thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to work with the City. She noted she was thankful for the mentor she has had.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator reported she is getting things ready for the Façade Program for next year, and that speakers had been installed along Second Street and with costs lower than originally expected, Innovative Concepts is adding extras to the system.

City Attorney Tim Baker commented that he was proud of Attorney Anne Razo and appreciated the Mayor giving her the opportunity to serve the City.

#### Council Input:

Sirk noted a \$100,000 Lilly Endowment grant for Early Childhood Learning which had been granted for use at the MERIT Center will be a great boost for the MERIT Center and will help with providing computers and special help in opening up the needed child care for the area. A couple of classrooms will be used for child care as the facilities have to be separate from areas used by adults.

Fire Chief Les Marckel reminded Council members they are invited to the Fire Department's Christmas Party to be held at Riverside Center on Wednesday evening, December 8, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Mayor Rickord shared that the Boy Scouts and the Decatur Chamber of Commerce had held a Breakfast with Santa at Riverside Center which was a great event and was well attended.

Councilman Coshow thanked the City employees for their work in putting up the new lights to outline the tops of the buildings along Second Street.

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 Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:47 P.M.