

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2026

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:45 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rickord who then invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll call was taken to show Jenny Bowers-Shultz, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray and Abby Wilder were present. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the April 7, 2026 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the April 7, 2026 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Since numerous representatives were present, Mayor Rickord shared the various CF-1 Tax Abatement renewals would be first on the agenda. Colton Bickel, Adams County Economic Corporation Director, was in attendance to speak to the various tax abatement issues if needed.

The first CF-1 form considered was the tax abatement for personal property for Metals N Motion, LLC owned by Eric Sorg. Dyer made motion to renew the tax abatement for personal property at Metals N Motion, LLC. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The second CF-1 form reviewed was for real estate for REV Recreation Group, Inc. as Rob Kowalczyk, director of operations for REV was available to answer any questions. Murray made a motion to renew the CF-1 tax abatement for real estate for REV Recreational Group. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The third CF-1 form was also for REV Recreation Group, Inc. for personal property. Dyer made a motion to renew the CF-1 tax abatement for personal property for REV Recreation Group, Inc. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The next two CF-1 tax abatement forms for renewal were from I-O Properties and owner Riggs Florence was in attendance to answer any questions. Murray made a motion to renew the CF-1 tax abatement for personal property for I-O Properties. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to renew the CF-1 tax abatement for real estate for I-O Properties. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The final CF-1 tax abatement issue was for the renewal for real estate for ABCinema, Inc. Fullenkamp made a motion to renew the real estate tax abatement for ABCinema, Inc. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, appeared before the Council regarding the need for changes of various building inspection fees to better reflect the actual costs. Witte noted that for a home being constructed there are at least 11 inspections provided by his office. As a result, Ordinance 2026-6, an ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Decatur which amends Chapter 150, Section 150.357 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, as supplemented to amend building permit fees and costs of demolition services by the City, was brought forward. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-6 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2026-6 by short title. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-6 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2026-6 until the May 5, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Following this evening's action on Ordinance 2026-6, it was noted a Public Hearing would be held on May 5, 2026.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, updated the Council regarding various events coming up. She noted Germanfest will be held on May 30, 2026 on the Madison Street Plaza. It was also noted the Thursday Evening Concert Series, sponsored by the Decatur Chamber of Commerce, will be held on the Madison Street Plaza beginning on June 4, 2026 and run through September 3, 2026.

The Decatur Sculpture Tour will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026 and the Conner Brite Wildflower Concert will be held that evening on the Madison Street Plaza.

Next on the agenda was Parks Superintendent Cara Gerber who presented various ideas to streamline the financial systems within the Parks and Recreation Department.

The first item was the formation of petty cash of \$200. Resolution 2026-2 was brought forward to establish a Petty Cash Fund of \$200 for the Decatur Parks & Recreation department. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2026-2 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2026-2 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-2. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The next item presented by Superintendent Gerber was the formation of \$200 cash change at each of six facilities in the city. Resolution 2026-3, a resolution authorizing and establishing a cash change fund and operations for concessions within the Parks department was brought forward. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2026-3 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Resolution 2026-3 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-3. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The third item to be considered was to reallocate concessions revenue from the REV Sports Complex into three parts: 50% to overall concessions, 25% to the general parks and recreation operating budget, and 25% to the REV Complex. Ordinance 2026-7 was brought forth, which amends Ordinance 2021-11, for the purpose of reallocating REV Sports Complex concession

revenue to include deposit to the Parks Cash Change and Concession fund. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-7 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2026-7 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-7 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2026-7 until the meeting on May 5, 2026. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The next area presented was the reorganization of the Parks and Recreation department. Cara presented an organizational chart with new titles for three existing positions including the Director of Maintenance, Director of Sports and Facilities and Director of Activities. Thus, an ordinance to update the position titles and increase one of the three director's wages to match the other Directors would be needed.

Mayor Rickord also commented that the presented salary ordinance amendment would include an increase for the sanitation department. He explained that when the sanitation department employees are available, they help out other departments, including the Street department, that have a higher rate in pay. Mayor felt that this increase was necessary to get the Sanitation employees at the same level of pay.

Ordinance 2026-8, an ordinance amending salary ordinance 2025-15 regarding rate of pay for Sanitation department and job titles/rate of pay changes for the Parks and Recreation department, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-8 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2026-8 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-8 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2026-8 until the May 5, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2026-9, an ordinance regarding the supplement of Code of Ordinances adoption of all ordinances passed to the Code of 2015, was brought forward. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-9 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2026-9 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-9 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2026-9 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2026-9 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-9 on its second reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call passed 5-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman reported the audit report for years 2021-2024 by the State Board of Accounts had been received with no notes or opinions. Hackman thanked Phyllis Whitright and Kevin Hackman for their great work as previous Clerk-Treasurers. Hackman also thanked Wendi Gephart, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Cherie Bienz, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, and Erin Heyerly, Utilities Auditor, for their contributions to the good results. Murray made a motion to make the Audit Report for years 2021-2024 a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Department Heads Input:

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared that the aerial truck is getting closer to completion.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber shared that members of the Decatur Police Department participated in the SAFE Carnival held last weekend in Monroe.

Chief Gerber also mentioned that Police Officer Conrad Dyer will graduate this Friday.

Cara Gerber, Parks Superintendent, shared the trail markers along the Rivergreenway were all in place. She also mentioned the grass in the dog park had been reseeded. Gerber shared the youth fall soccer registration is open and the summer co-ed sand volleyball sign-ups started today.

Erin Heyerly, Utilities Auditor, mentioned that they are flushing hydrants this week and next week.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, noted that the 2nd round of the beautification projects will start soon.

Matt Schultz, Street and Sanitation Superintendent, reported work will be done soon on 12th Street from Jackson to Nuttman and on 11th Street from Jackson to 12th Street. He also noted heavy trash pick-up week held recently went well. Schultz also mentioned that the mulch pile is done.

Mayor Rickord shared that efforts will be made to keep residents updated regarding the water project with various meetings being held at the appropriate times.

Public Input:

Mary Montgomery-Byer was present and shared a petition with 23 signatures of the various residents in the 7th Street/Madison Street area. Ms. Montgomery-Byer shared the concern about the safety in the area and sought making the intersection a 3-way stop. It was shared the situation would be taken under advisement with Matt Schultz, Street/Sanitation Superintendent, and Police Chief Kevin Gerber

There being no other further business to be brought before the Council, Murray made a motion to pay the claims. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:58 p.m.