

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2026

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:50 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, and Scott Murray were present and Abby Wilder was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 6, 2026 meeting and Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt the minutes of the January 6, 2026 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Vialytics, an AI powered pavement and asset management system. Smart phones would be provided for each truck to collect data while driving around the city. AI powered assessments are made of potholes, cracks, signs, drains, and other items. Discussion noted the system would be more efficient than just driving around and looking for certain issues. The system includes a 1-year contract at \$14,560 with a one-time training cost of \$4,700. Matt Schultz, Street/Sanitation Superintendent, shared he was in favor of trying the system for a year to then evaluate the use of the system. Following a lengthy discussion, Dyer made a motion to proceed with the program for a year. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Matt Schultz, Street/Sanitation Superintendent, shared a need to change the hours/days for the recycling drop-off site. Schultz noted that people are dropping off items that aren't recyclable. It was noted that out of city vehicles are dropping off items. Schultz noted when non-recycling items are in the recycling, and not caught before processed, the cost to the city is greater. Individuals are abusing the system and city residents are paying for it. New drop off days will be Monday through Thursday. On Friday through Sunday, bins will be brought inside the gate so items cannot be dropped off during that time.

It was shared that the Board of Public Works and Safety had earlier this evening passed a motion to make a matter of record the CHIRP (Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program) grant award of \$40,000.

Ordinance 2026-1, an ordinance to establish the Phillip R. Reed Estate non-reverting fund for Parks and Recreation, was brought forth. It was shared \$200,000 had been left to the Parks and Recreation Department and a non-reverting fund needed to be established. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-1 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney

Anne Razo read Ordinance 2026-1 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2026-1 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 4-0 with Wilder being absent. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2026-1 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2026-1 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-1 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 4-0 with Wilder being absent.

Mayor Rickord shared that the city received 20 applications for the open position of Parks and Recreation Superintendent. Interviews are in progress.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief Kevin Gerber noted a guest from the department. Resource Officer Andrew Elwell appeared before the Council regarding a project started by students in Bellmont High School's Principles of Marketing class taught by Bryan Lineberry. The project is a stuffed dog named Kozy Koda--named for the Resource Officer Koda (dog). The cost for a Kozy Koda is \$20 and the profits go to the fund for Koda for purchase of dog food.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared the actions taken at the Board of Public Works and Safety regarding the new firemen. He noted the paper work for the two he noted at the previous meeting had come back from PERF.

Council Input:

Fullenkamp made a motion to pay the claims against the city as presented. 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 Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:46 p.m.