

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2025

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 6:37 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan 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, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Abby Wilder were in attendance and Matt Dyer had a family obligation and would attend later. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo via phone.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 21, 2025 meeting and Wilder made a motion to adopt the minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was the request for a tax abatement from Hoosier Pattern. Attorney Audra Snyder and Hoosier Pattern owner Keith Gerber appeared before Council seeking a 10-year abatement for real property and a 5-year abatement for personal property. The request involved the \$1.7 million worth of equipment recently purchased. Noting the outline of percentages of abatement and the payment period over the years, it seemed that Colton Bickel, Adams County Economic Development Corporation Director, had included different figures than normally used. Bickel was not able to attend this evenings meeting and from time to time Attorney Snyder and Gerber were unable to answer specific questions regarding the different figures. Wilder expressed concerns and suggested tabling until later but no motion was made. Murray shared a positive note regarding how Gerber treats the neighborhood of Hoosier Pattern and its positive image in the City.

City Attorney Anne Razo explained how an economic revitalization area works, the differences between real property abatement and personal property abatements and how abatements are usually ten years or five years in length and how the tax percentage is broken down. Attorney Razo shared the Council needed to adopt a Declaratory Resolution if they wished to approve the abatements. Murray made a motion to introduce Declaratory Resolution 2025-1 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted and Mayor Rickord read Declaratory Resolution 2025-1 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Declaratory Resolution 2025-1. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted by a 4-0 vote as Dyer arrived just prior to the vote.

During the discussion regarding abatements, it was noted that perhaps a process with more concrete steps for abatements needs to be adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, presented possible works with costs to possibly consider to complete the 5-Point Project. Gilbert shared he was presenting three items which included \$58,000 from Fleming Excavating, Inc. to replace pavement, Pfister Sprinkler Systems, Inc. at \$38,000 for irrigation system and \$99,252 from Michiana Contracting, Inc. for lighting to match that already along Second Street. Gilbert shared he wanted to present the proposals to get an idea of what the Council Members might want. It makes sense to complete the area, but the decision will likely depend on funds available. It was noted there will be lots of plants and bushes in the area which speaks to the possible need of the irrigation system. By consensus, no action was taken tonight and the plans could be looked at again at the February 18, 2025 meeting.

Department Heads:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared it is pot-hole season and noted people can report to the Department regarding areas of needed work. Gilbert also shared that with the weather prediction of an ice storm, they will be preparing the streets with salt.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber noted the Officers will be at school on Friday for the Annual Dodgeball Games.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets noted the new dates of Friday, June 27, 2025 and Saturday, June 28, 2025 for Fire Ops 101 training in Portland. Chief Sheets also reminded the residents of the no open burn rules for the City.

Council Input:

Bowers-Shultz announced that the deadline for making applications for the design of a flag for the City is tomorrow, February 5th.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:24 P.M.