

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 6:35 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 Jenny Bowers-Shultz, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Abby Wilder were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

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

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the January 23, 2024 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

First on the agenda was Ordinance 2024-1, an ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Decatur, Indiana which repeals and replaces chapter 91 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, as supplemented, regarding fire prevention; fireworks. Fire Chief Jeff Sheets and Decatur Fire Inspector Tony Lothridge appeared before the Council regarding the new proposed Fire Prevention and Fireworks Ordinance. Chief Sheets noted the ordinance will strengthen the Department's power especially in getting businesses to be in compliance. The ordinance would cover various aspects such as fees, the appeal process, the permitting process and so forth. It was shared that Chief Sheets, Inspector Lothridge, and Attorney Anne Razo would continue to work through the ordinance. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-1 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2024-1 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz then made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-1 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz then made a motion to table Ordinance 2024-1 until the next meeting and set a Public Hearing for that meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

As a result of Ordinance 2024-1 passing its first reading the need for a Public Hearing was noted to be held at the next meeting of the Council (Which later in the meeting was changed from February 20, 2024 to February 21, 2024).

Mayor Rickord noted a member of the Mayor's Youth Council in attendance and had Olivia Bessesen introduce herself. Later in the meeting Victoria Hamrick also attended the meeting and was recognized.

Due to Mayor Rickord being a member of AIM's Legislative Committee and others wishing to attend the legislative dinner on February 20, 2024, Wilder made a motion to change the February 20, 2024 meeting to Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda—a discussion of the Arts Commission Ordinance—resulted in a lengthy discussion regarding the funds received from the sale of art work at The HIVE with 80% going to the seller and 20% being retained by the City. Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman questioned where the fund should go. Community Coordinator Jamie Gephart and Kim Brandt, Director of The HIVE, were in attendance for input and to answer questions. It was noted the Arts Commission was started by the City Council in 2019 with the intent of The HIVE becoming self-funded and for the requests for funding for such things as the Sculpture Tour would come from the funding provided to the Arts Commission from the City Budget. Fullenkamp eventually made a motion for City Attorney Anne Razo to work on an amendment to the 2019-7 Ordinance to go forward and for Attorney Razo to bring back more legal information with funds going to the Public Arts Fund at a later meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Throughout the discussion, Director Brandt was complimented by various member of the Council for her positive work at The HIVE.

Nathan Scherer, Superintendent of the Adams County Regional Sewer District (ACRSD), was in attendance to provide an update of the District's work. Scherer distributed a copy of the report that is given to members of the District's Board Members each month. Scherer noted the first project was in 2017. In the near future a total of 976 homes will be serviced by the City of Decatur. The hope is to get funding in the spring to include 360 more homes. Scherer thanked the City for its cooperation and Mayor Rickord praised the work of the Sewer District for assisting in keeping the rivers clean.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman presented fifteen (15) checks totaling \$2,760.63 which were over two (2) years old. The checks were written by the City and not cashed. Murray made a motion to cancel the checks. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Resolution 2024-1, a resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the sewage utility debt service reserve fund to the sewage operating fund, was brought forward. With the Sewage Utility 2015 Refunding bond paid off, funds of \$296,531.26 remain. It was shared the funds could be transferred to the sewage operating fund. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2024-1 by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Resolution 2024-1 by short title only. Bower-Shultz made motion to adopt Resolution 2024-1. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Kevin Gerber shared the members of the Department would be participating in the dodge ball game with the Bellmont Elementary School students this week.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared they hope to complete the “stop, drop, and roll” program in the schools by the end of the month. Chief Sheets shared they are pleased to have the remote-control fire hydrant back.

Josh Zimmerman, Civil Infrastructure and Stormwater Manager, noted that with the weather breaking, they are finding lots of things to work on and fix.

Council Input:

Fullenkamp made a motion to pay the claims before the City. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord recognized the Bellmont Bowling Team and three (3) members going to the state this weekend and the wrestlers continuing in the state tournament this weekend.

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

Adjournment was at 7:44 P.M.