

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:45 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 Matt Dyer, Jenny Bowers-Shultz, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Abby Wilder were in attendance while Scott Murray was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

Following the opening of the meeting, Mayor Rickord announced a Public Hearing has been advertised to begin at 7 p.m.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the February 4, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 4, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman shared there were four (4) outstanding checks totaling \$442.90 that as per Indiana Code needed to be written off. The four checks included \$55.01 from the General fund, \$365.00 from the Stormwater fund, and \$22.89 from the HRA fund. Dyer made a motion to write off the outstanding checks. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Prior to the Public Hearing, Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, made a presentation regarding AI software. He shared the AI software by Ordianl was designed to work with the GIS system, City Ordinances, and Indiana Codes. With limited information regarding the Ordinal software since it is not used anywhere in Indiana, there was interest from the Council Members to learn more by having Witte and others check with areas who are using the software.

As 7 p.m. approached, Dyer made a motion to suspend the Council Meeting and open an Open Hearing. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted. Dyer then made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo explained the reason for the Public Hearing since the Council had received a request from Hoosier Pattern for an abatement for \$363,102 of real property and \$2,357,845 of personal property. A Declaratory Resolution was adopted at the February 4, 2025 meeting which included a 10-year abatement for the real property and 5 years on the personal property. Colton Bickel, Director of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation, was on hand to explain he had made an error regarding the payment schedule which had caused some questioning at the February 4, 2025 meeting.

There being on one present to speak for or against the abatement request, Dyer made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Bowers-Shultz made a motion to reconvene the Council Meeting. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make a matter of record the Proof of Filing Notice, presented by Attorney Audra Snyder on behalf of Hoosier Pattern. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make a matter of record the publication of notice for the Public Hearing regarding the abatement request from Hoosier Pattern. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The Confirming Resolution 2025-2 which identified the property at Hoosier Pattern was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Confirming Resolution 2025-2 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Confirming Resolution 2025-2 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Confirming Resolution 2025-2. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was a resolution to approve the use of Electronic Fund Transfers. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolutions 2025-3, a resolution providing for the use of Electronic Fund Transfers, by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Razo read Resolution 2025-3 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-3. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Eight lots of Northfield of Cross Creek were the next topic discussed. It was shared that 8 lots of the 34 new lots in the northwest area of Cross Creek addition would be under the service of the Adams County Regional Sewer District (ACRSD). Dyer made a motion to approve the ACRSD's accepting 8 lots of Northfield of Cross Creek. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, appeared before the Council to announce the recipients of this year's façade awards. Of the \$50,000 in the budget, the requests of 7 applications totaled \$37,919.53. Those awarded funds were StoppCo (\$2,997), Famous Monster Pizza (\$2,576.53), The Museum (\$10,000), EF Gass Salon (\$1,725), Yvonne Marie's (\$8,700), Next Page (\$7971), and Vinnie's (\$3950). Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the façade grants pending final approval for Vinnie's request. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make a matter of record Mayor Rickord's appointment of Joan Siefring to the Parks Board. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, appeared before the Council seeking direction regarding the wishes of Council Members regard the completion of the 5-Points project. At the February 4, 2025 meeting, Gilbert shared 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. Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman noted there was some money in the budget that could be used but he was concerned about taking some of the padding for the CCMG. Fullenkamp questioned the use of the proposed lighting so far along the streets. Hackman also noted a possibility of some funding help from the Decatur Redevelopment Commission.

Fullenkamp made a motion to proceed with the work by Fleming Excavating, Inc. at a cost of \$58,000. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Dyer made a motion to proceed with the irrigation work by Pfister Sprinkler Systems at a cost of \$38,520. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Department Heads:

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, read a letter from NeighborLink thanking the City for their donation of funds in 2024.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared the training sessions scheduled for June 27 and 28, 2025 will be held in Monroe.

Council Input:

Dyer asked about the Commissioner's building proposals and Mayor Rickord noted he was a member of the Steering Committee and they met earlier today with no decision being made.

Bowers-Shultz announced 52 entries had been received for the development of a City Flag. She noted there is hope to finalize a design by May or early June.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, 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 7:56 P.M.