

CITY OF DECATUR  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES  
MARCH 4, 2025

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 6:54 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 in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the February 18, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 18, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was an update regarding the discussion held on February 18, 2025 that introduced the use of AI software by Ordinal. Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, appeared before the Council with an Ordinal representative via phone to answer any questions. It was shared that Ordinal is new to Indiana and as a new company of nearly a year it is growing fast with ten cities or counties on board while in the process of wrapping up with six more municipalities. Witte shared he had reached out to references provided by Ordinal and asked them five questions. All responded that the service had been quite helpful and a valuable program for staff usage. Being the first to accept the AI Ordinal software in Indiana, Ordinal said they would waive the set-up fee which is \$15,000 to \$20,000 and would offer a \$10,000 annual fee which would be locked in place. After Council Members felt due diligence had been done in researching Ordinal, Bowers-Shultz made a motion to approve the contract with Ordinal. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda, Fire Chief Jeff Sheets, appeared before the Council regarding a discussion held earlier this evening with the Board of Public Works and Safety and the need to look at replacement for a couple fire trucks. Chief Sheets shared prices have increased \$200,000 since last year and there is a four-year wait for any delivery. Sheets shared the truck in service since 2002 has developed some from problems as a result of rusting issues. And the aerial truck has been in service for 30 years. The discussion was noted as a beginning of the process and one issue to be considered is the financing.

Department Heads:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager noted spring is on the way and that means pot holes are arriving. Gilbert noted people need to call his office to report any pot holes that need to be fixed. Gilbert also shared that the street sweeper appeared this afternoon and will be out every day as there is a lot of dirt along the streets that needs to get cleaned up.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber noted the dodge ball games between the Belmont Elementary students and the Police (with the Police losing). Chief Gerber announced that Sergeant Trent Busse had been awarded a “Heart of the Community” award presented by the Serv-Pro firm.

Karey Fuelling, Sewage Department Superintendent, reported her office had received a large number of phone calls in regards to sewage and water backups. It was noted much of the problem is the result of flushing improper items down the toilet, even those items designated as “flushable.”

Council Input:

Murray tanks Councilwoman Bowers-Shultz for her work regarding the applications for the design of a City Flag. It was noted last meeting there were 52 entries.

Murray 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 7:20 P.M.