

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
May 7, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:10 pm 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 April 16 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Michelle Lengerich with Council on Aging was present to update the Council on the newest Adams County Transport success. She shared that 198 different riders used the service in 2023, and 70% of the trips were for medical related. She also requested financial assistance in 2025 from the City for \$22,000. She also informed the Council that the agency will be applying for state funding and by 2026 will hopefully not be needing this donation after that. Dyer made a motion to approve the 2025 financial assistance of \$22,000. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Abby Wilder gave an update from the Merit Board regarding the hiring of a Learning Center Coordinator whose job duties will include being in contact with local businesses to set up classes for their employees at the Merit Center. The position will be part time with an average of 15-20 hours per week while being paid \$15-\$20 per hour. This position will be funded through Connect to Careers, until it is self-funded. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to move forward with the job posting, seconded by Murray the motion was adopted.

Next, Police Chief Kevin Gerber shared that Officer Andrew Elwell will be replacing Officer Trent Busse as the new NACS SRO Officer. He will train with Police Dog Koda for approximately 3-4 weeks, then attend SRO training in July before school starts in August. Gerber commented that if Elwell is deployed for military duty that the city has a commitment to NACS to fill the SRO position.

Ordinance 2024-6, an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Decatur, Indiana, which amends Chapter 78, Schedule 3 of the Code of Ordinance to add a handicap spot at 247 N 6th Street was brought forward. Discussion by Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert and Council member Bowers-Shultz was that after speaking with the homeowners that this is a warranted request. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-6 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-

6 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-6 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz then made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-6 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-6 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-6 on its second reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table the Ordinance until the May 21, 2024 meeting, seconded by Fullenkamp the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord and Clerk-Treasurer Hackman have met with Adams Memorial Group and PHP regarding the City hosting a health fair for the full-time employees. The employees who participate would be granted an additional 4 hours of vacation time. Employees who follow up with their healthcare provider would be granted an additional 8 hours of vacation time. This prompted Ordinance 2024-7, an Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Decatur Authorizing the Mayor to extend additional vacation time to full-time city employees, to be presented. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-7 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-7 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-7 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz then made a motion to place Ordinance 2024-7 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-7 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-7 on its second reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to suspend the rules and to place Ordinance 2024-7 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2024-7 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-7 on its final reading, seconded by Wilder a roll call vote passed 5-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman discussed a request for donation from the Chamber of Commerce for the 4th of July Celebration Fireworks. An amount was not given so the request was tabled until the May 21st meeting for Hackman to find the amount given in 2023.

Mayor Rickord was approached by the Crossroads Community group to request yearly funds from the Opioid Settlement. Berne and Geneva have both earmarked their portion for the groups Recovery House. A letter of request was sent to Rickord from Rene LaBlanc asking for \$6000 for 2024. Murray made a motion to fulfill the request, seconded by Bowers-Shultz the motion was adopted.

Last on the agenda was the review of several Real & Personal Property CF-1 forms. Clerk-Treasurer Hackman presented the following abatements for approval:

The first CF-1 form was for personal property from JK Morris (Gilpins). It was noted that this is year 9 of a 10-year abatement. Representatives were unable to attend the meeting, but had sent along information noting that while the employee count is up from last year they are still struggling with keeping a steady flow of raw materials. Dyer made motion to continue the abatement with JK Morris Holdings. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz the motion was adopted.

The second CF-1 forms presented were for real & personal property from REV Recreation Group. It was noted that this is year 4 of a 10-year abatement for both real and personal property. Representatives were not in attendance at the meeting to explain the decline in numbers. ACEDC Executive Director Colton Bickel, sent an email prior to the meeting, expressing his confidence in leadership and providing his support for approval of the abatement. Dyer made motion to continue the abatements for REV Recreation Group. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The third and final CF-1 forms were from Hoosier Pattern/RH Warehouse. Hoosier Pattern currently has 6 active abatements, including 3 for personal property and 3 for real property. The abatements were first approved in 2018 (2), 2019 (2), and 2022 (2). Representatives did not attend the meeting. Dyer noted they have exceeded the estimates given on the CF-1 forms and has been a good community partner. Fullenkamp made a motion to continue the abatements with Hoosier Pattern/RH Warehouse. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Bowers-Shultz made comment that she appreciated in the past when business owners requesting abatements attended the meetings. Dyer made comment he appreciated businesses who take an interest in staying in Decatur.

Next on the agenda was a request by Champion Homes to extend the beginning date of their personal property tax abatement originally set to begin in 2024. Attorney Razo noted that if Champion Homes has not put the property into use in 2024, this request could be allowed with the passage of a resolution. Razo then presented Resolution 2024-3, that supplements the effective date of Champion Home Builder Inc personal property tax abatement schedule. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2024-3 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Resolution 2024-3 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-3. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord reported that 21 applications were accepted for the Mayors Youth Council Sponsored Beautification Project. Mayor shared that \$10,159 had been awarded and \$43,728 in total projects will be completed. These projects will include mulch, paint, and adding flowers/shrubs at residences throughout Decatur. There is approximately \$4700 remaining and the Mayor will likely open the application process up again.

Department Heads:

Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert shared that approximately 18 properties have requested to use the 50/50 sidewalk program and work should start around May 20th.

Jeremy is working with Brooks Construction on their paving schedule and they could start soon on the Community Crossings Matching Grant project.

The coed softball field at Kekionga park should be completed within the next 2 weeks, and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony upon completion.

The 5-Points Project contractor will be selected by July 10.

The dump truck chassis that was ordered is available for the city to pick up. The chassis purchase was budgeted in 2024, but the bed and equipment were not. The truck will be stored until the funds are available to complete the build.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared the Fire Ops 101 program will be rescheduled for this fall due to the scheduling conflict with Downtown Decatur Days.

Building and Zoning Superintendent Curt Witte has been working on the Decatur Skate Park located at Northward park by the pool.

Council:

Mayor Rickord announced that raffle tickets for a new golf cart and cash prizes are being sold for the Decatur Downtown Days to be held June 15, 2024. The proceeds are for Decatur Main Street.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims before the City. 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 Murray, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 8:15 pm.