

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
May 16, 2023

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on May 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. Members present were Craig Coshow, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the May 2, 2023 meeting. Coshow made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert regarding the possible purchase of an RC mower (remote control). Gilbert shared that if the City was going to continue maintaining the river banks, rights-of-way, ditches, and detention ponds and also the pond near the Dog Park, which is to be cleaned and re-stocked, it is important to have machinery that works for the safety of the employees using them. Gilbert and Mayor Rickord recently had witnessed a demonstration of the RC mower, which provided several uses and was especially safe for the employees. The cost of the RC mower is \$59,497.50, which is a state bid from Sourcewell, and monies are available in the stormwater operating fund. Coshow made a motion to allow for the purchase of the RC mower at a cost of \$59,497.50 using stormwater funds. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Supt. and Asst. Building and Zoning Supt, Brad Roe regarding Code Enforcement for lots at 316 S. 11th St., 221 S. 12th St., and 225 S. 12th Street owned by Victoria, Aaron and Josie Ellis. It was shared that the three (3) properties were in bad shape when the Ellis's purchased them. The Code Enforcement for the properties began on June 19, 2022. From time to time things improved after they were given thirty (30) days. However, following some clean up many trash cans, a dump truck with invalid plates, and other items appeared. A complaint was filed again on November 10, 2022 with a letter sent on November 16, 2022. At that time, it seemed the Ellis's had a trash removal business and it was felt the property was being used as a trash transfer area. Following the 11/16/2022 letter, Mr. Ellis visited Witte's office and explained his plans. However, he was not happy with the facts he was given when he left. Witte shared that his office Administrator, Erin Heyerly had called the Ellis residence several times with no answers. Attorney Pat Miller, serving as legal representative for Ellis remarked that the trash bags had contained trash found in the home and that Mr. Ellis was trying to get the repairs on the buildings done. Attorney Miller added that all the trash cans were moved out, the mowing was done this afternoon, and the tires were left from the previous owner and are too heavy to move. The Ellis's were given until June 6, 2023 to get the rubbish cleaned up and the holes in the building covered and then will discuss again at the June 6th Board of Works meeting. It was emphasized that the important part of the project was for the Ellis's to keep in contact with Witte. Witte also reminded the Ellis's that if the house is rented out, they need to have the house inspected first, and smoke detectors are required, and also carbon monoxide monitors outside the bedrooms.

Kevin Hackman, Utilities Auditor came forward regarding the bids for the painting and repairs to the south water tower on Line Street, which were opened on May 2, 2023. Paul Spitzley of Dixon Engineering who assisted with the bid specifications was in attendance. Spitzley shared that Dixon has reviewed all bids and recommends using the third lowest bidder due to Dixon having had worked with the lowest bidder before and found them lacking with various issues such as not finishing the project and having non-English speaking persons, which caused great communication problems. It was also noted there was a small difference between the second and third lowest bidder and having worked with each, Dixon recommended the third lowest bidder, LC United Painting Company at \$248,000 since Dixon and the City of Decatur worked them on the previous water tower, which the project went very well. Coshow

made a motion to proceed with the bid of \$248,000 from LC United Painting Company as recommended by Dixon Engineering. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Wastewater Supt. Karey Fuelling appeared before the Board seeking permission to obtain appraisals for two (2) homes at 310 & 316 N. 1st Street for possibly another storage tank. A final site will be due to IDEM by 2025. It was noted that the property owners have been notified of the possible future project. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow Supt. Fuelling to move forward with obtaining appraisals for properties at 310 & 316 N. 1st Street. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Wastewater Supt., Karey Fuelling also sought permission to proceed with asphalt paving at the Wastewater Treatment Plant at a cost of \$33,350.00 with the work being done by Brooks Construction Company, Inc. Since Brooks Construction was already awarded as part of the annual street material, equipment & labor bid for 2023, no other bid was required. Fuelling noted the area to be paved had been dug up since 2005. Fullenkamp made a motion to give permission to Fuelling to proceed with the WWTP paving at a cost of \$33,350.00 by Brooks Construction Company, Inc. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Effective May 8, 2023 Zachary Hess was sworn in as a Police Patrolman. Fullenkamp made a motion to make the Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office for the new Patrolman Zachary Hess a matter of record. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

There being no other business, Fullenkamp made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 6:48 P.M.