

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2025

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 6:43 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 Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, Jenny Bowers-Shultz, and Abby Wilder were present. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the June 3, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 3, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda included Max Miller, President of Decatur Main Street and Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator. Miller gave an update regarding Decatur Main Street and its accreditation with Indiana Main Street. Miller noted there is hope the City will include funding in its budget to possibly fund a director for Decatur Main Street. Miller also noted the Indiana Main Street has funds for façade program grants. Miller and Gephart presented a design for the alley between 2nd and 3rd Street along Sherwin-Williams Paint Company ending at the 3rd Street parking lot. The title was “DeCATur Alleyway” and features the cat sculpture. Other items would be a tunnel, a kitty ride, a bench, colorful hall planter, a balance beam, and painted hopscotch and paw prints to continue the “Cat” theme. Also proposed would be a public art collage. It was shared funds of approximately \$12,000 are left in the façade budget and the Decatur Rotary Club will assist with the funding at a total cost estimated at \$15,000. Dyer made a motion to proceed with the project using the remaining façade funds. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Community Coordinator Jamie Gephart presented an Event Form for a private wedding to be held on Madison Street Plaza on September 27, 2025. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the event Form for the wedding on September 27, 2025. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, appeared before the Council to open a discussion regarding the MERIT Center cleaning budget. It was shared the Council budget for the cleaning at the MERIT Center was over spent. The hours have been lowered to 23 hours per week to try to reduce costs. Bowers-Shultz inquired as to how the rent is related to other areas and Fullenkamp shared he felt the Council on Aging should share in the cleaning costs. Wilder, who is a member of the MERIT Center

Board, asked to not take any action until after the MERIT Center Board meets on Thursday, June 19 in order to get the Board's input.

In order to be in concurrence with action taken earlier this evening by the Board of Public Works and Safety, Murray made a motion to make a matter of record the annual fee for service agreement for 2024 and 2025 with the Adams County Economic Development Corporation. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

It was shared that the Decatur Chamber of Commerce was planning a Christmas walk in December and Sandra Collier and Suzy Fuelling was seeking permission to include the Pennsy Depot in the walk at no cost. Dyer made a motion to allow having the Pennsy Depot in the Decatur Chamber's Christmas Walk. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was an update on the adoption of a Decatur City Flag. Bowers-Shultz shared the selected flag will be revealed at the Downtown Decatur Day on Saturday, June 21, 2025. Then, the Council will be asked to approve the selected flag design at the July 1, 2025 meeting.

Mayor Rickord shared the need to have some design for a park so the City would be prepared to make application for funds/grants that may become available. Mayor Rickord noted some public meetings will be held in the future for Citizen input—likely in July.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared the work at 5-Points is going very well. He noted that as early as next week they will be able to cut the dirt at the site to grade and apply stone. Then E&B Paving Company will be able to start pouring cement for the roundabout.

Regarding the Community Crossing Matching Grant (CCMG) project, Gilbert noted work on the sidewalks should be completed in 2 to 2 ½ weeks. Then the milling and paving of the streets will take place. The CCMG project should be completed by the end of August.

Gilbert noted the City Employees have been busy doing sewer work prior to the CCMG pavement portion. It is hoped the pavement work will be completed by the beginning of school in August.

Kevin Gerber, Chief of Police, appeared before the Council sharing the plans to be used for the Decatur Pride Festival to be held on June 28, 2025. Being pro-active, an area has been set aside for anyone wanting to protest. Allowing the right to protest, a free zone for anyone wanting to protest will be located on Madison Street beside the Court House. Safety for all is a priority.

Chief Gerber noted the Department will be participating in Downtown Decatur Day with handouts including magnets and child ID kits.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared the first out-of-school visitation had been held with 30-40 people participating. Chief Sheets reminded residents of the times for using fireworks as the fireworks season approaches. It was shared that from June 29 to July 3 fireworks are legal from 5 p.m. to two hours after sunset. From July 5 to July 9, the hours are the same. On July 4 the hours are between 10:00 A.M. and midnight.

Erin Heyerly, Utilities Auditor, shared she is working with Commonwealth as they go door to door seeking an update on any lead service lines. The individuals going door to door will have proper ID and will be wearing a special vest.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, reminded people of the Downtown Decatur Day on Saturday, June 21, 2025. She noted various vendors will be set up for the day.

Council Input:

Dyer thanked Chief Gerber for being pro-active regarding the Decatur Pride Festival to be held on June 28, 2025. He shared he does not have a problem with people protesting but is concerned with some of the words which he feels are inappropriate on the signs. Dyer also stated that he will ask the Pride Committee to cancel the drag show portion of the Decatur Pride Festival event.

Public Comments:

City Attorney Razo outlined the process for any Public Comments. She shared it was not a time to debate and the person needs to state his/her name and address and would be given 2 minutes to speak.

Deonarine Rajkumar was present and expressed concern about health care in the area as he had a concern regarding his 17 year old daughter. He did end by complimenting Mayor Rickord.

Council Input:

Fullenkamp made a motion to pay the claims against the City. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

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

Adjournment was at 7:38 p.m.