

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 6:30 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 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 June 4, 2024 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 4, 2024 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was Craig Coshow sharing that Louise Ray would like to use angels stored at the Elm Street location to create a display for Founder's Park. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to allow Ms. Ray to proceed with the project by using the angels. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Brett Miller on behalf of the Dryers regarding the possibility of twenty (20) lots at Lake Shores. It was shared a ditch needed to be moved and some trees removed to make the lots available. It was noted some of the property is City property and that the trees serve as a part of the buffer for the shooting range. Some Lake Shore residents were in attendance to ask a few questions regarding such things as would the trees be replaced and would the minimum square footage of the homes remain. Mayor Rickord stressed he does not want to discourage additional housing being built in Decatur, but he also wants to make sure any action regarding the City property is legal. Fullenkamp noted he would like the opportunity to go to the area and walk around to get a better idea what would happen in that area. Thus, following a lengthy discussion, Fullenkamp made a motion to table the Lake Shores issue until the next meeting to give Council Members a chance to study the area. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Melissa Bittner regarding the LifeWise Academy to be instituted in North Adams for grades K-5 in the 2024-25 school year. She explained the students, with parental permission, would be bussed to the Cornerstone Church during their library time for religious instruction. She outlined the possible plans for the future and noted the cost is \$30 per child per month. No school funds can be used for the program.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator, shared the website domain will be updated as the new site will be cityofdecatur.in.gov and new emails will need to be established. Current emails will continue to be re-directed to the updated site at the current time. It

was shared that Mike Brown, County IT Director, had forwarded the information to Gephart. The new domain is necessary for security and also should assist with getting grants.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber shared that Officer Rumschlag had an injury and is on light duty. Chief Gerber shared the dog that had been selected is being cared for by Allen County and they are interested in purchasing the dog. Chief Gerber noted the Department is not ready for the dog as two (2) officers are at basic academy. A new dog could be sought next year. Dyer made a motion to allow Chief Gerber to proceed with the sale of the dog to Allen County. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed.

Chief Gerber announced that Officer Rumschlag had notified the Department of his resignation from the program regarding the use of a canine. Murray made a motion to make the resignation of Officer Rumschlag in the program with the canine a matter of record. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets appeared before the Council regarding the paving of the roads at Safety Village. It was shared that during the meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety Craig Coshow had studied the quotes and recommended the Option 1 quote of \$5059 from Asphalt Maintenance Services which passed as a recommendation to the Council. Chief Sheets is requesting the use of ARPA funds to pay for the repaving. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to accept the recommendation of \$5059 from Asphalt Maintenance Service and use ARPA funds. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman sought input regarding the 2025 Budget, and the amount for salaries as a starting point. Hackman shared the budget will likely be part of the agenda until September/October. Mayor Rickord shared he and Hackman had talked with Kintz Insurance and there will be a substantial increase in health insurance rates in 2025. Dyer suggested 3% increase in salaries as a starting point. Mayor Rickord shared he would like to meet with each Department Head to review preliminary budgets

Department Heads:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared bids for the 5 Points Project will be opened on July 10, 2024 so action will need to be taken at the July 16, 2024 meeting of the Council. Gilbert shared 20% will be payable within 30 days of accepting bids. Gilbert recommended a Special Board of Works meeting be held on July 11 or 12, to review the bids.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets shared there are two (2) more Fridays of the Open House for the youth. He also noted there are two (2) weeks yet for anyone wanting to fill out an application for a position in the Department.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, shared Brett Miller, will mark the site of possible tree removal at the Lake Shores addition, so Council can see the impact better.

Josh Zimmerman, Civil Infrastructure and Stormwater Manager, noted the work on the CSO continues and shared the use of smart sensors was a good investment

Council Input:

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

Adjournment was at 7:46 P.M.