

**CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 1, 2025**

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 6:40 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 17, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 17, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was consideration of the request from the women representing the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to have the third year of banners honoring the veterans downtown. It was shared applications would start being accepted in September for the third year. Dyer made a motion to approve the third year for the DAR banner project. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Councilwoman Bowers-Shultz regarding the proposed flag as the City's official flag. Bowers-Shultz shared the flag design selected by public input had been revealed during Downtown Decatur Day on Saturday, June 21, 2025. Bowers-Shultz shared that Don Gephart was the winning designer and she read Mr. Gephart's description of the various parts of the flag's design. Small flags were distributed to all present as well as a large flag was shown. Bowers-Shultz thanked all who had participated by submitting a design and the members of the committee who selected the final three designs for the public vote.

Resolution 2025-6, a resolution adopting the 2025 flag design contest winning design as the official flag of the City of Decatur, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-6 by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2025-6 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-6. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted. Mayor Rickord thanked all who had participated in the flag project.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the MERIT Center cleaning costs which were first addressed at the June 17, 2025 meeting regarding the costs being over the budgeted amount. As a member of the MERIT Center Board, Wilder had asked for no action to be taken until she had a chance to meet with the MERIT Center Board for its input on the issue. Wilder reported the MERIT Center Board had considered the issue with some

possible solutions including asking the Council on Aging and the King's Kingdom Childcare to pay for custodial services and/or the board focus on a marketing campaign for the eight empty units to rent for additional income. The City would need to inspect those eight empty units to see what is needed to make those units rentable. It was shared that the King's Kingdom Childcare hopes to be at full capacity in the near future which would increase their yearly rent from \$13,753 to \$30,294. This increase could help cover the cleaning service costs. It was shared that there is no magical solution. It was also shared that the current person would continue cleaning at 23 hours per week. It is hoped a solution to this budget problem can be determined at the July 15, 2025 meeting of the Council.

Next on the agenda was Resolution 2025-7, a resolution adopting the second amended and restated agreement and declaration of trust of the AIM Medical Trust. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-7 by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2025-7 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-7. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

As the time reached 7:00 p.m., Mayor Rickord shared a Public Hearing had been published to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Murray made a motion to suspend the Council Meeting for a Public Hearing. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed.

Murray made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo explained the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear from representatives from Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. regarding their preparation of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).

Commonwealth representatives Ben Adams and Chris Harrison noted a grant had been received about a year ago to study Decatur's aging infrastructure and lead service lines. The public hearing was to hear the results of their study. It was shared they looked at the older areas of the City and had identified 14 target areas. The proposal noted the feasible alternatives included "No Action Alternative" or Alternatives 1-14 which identified various areas throughout the City. The report included the total estimate of the project (the 14 identified areas) cost at \$20,899,000. The report also included a project schedule beginning in April 2025 and ending in March 2028. As they ended their presentation, it was shared the projects had been filed regarding the State Revolving Fund Loan Program which ranks the projects. Of over 70 projects being ranked, Decatur is ranked at number 8 which suggests the City is in a good position to get funding. It was also shared the City should be hearing soon regarding any funding.

City Attorney Anne Razo asked for citizen input either for or against and there was no one asking to speak although the media representatives did ask a couple of questions for clarification.

Dyer made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to reconvene the Council meeting. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted. Mayor Rickord thanked Ben Adams and Chris Harrison for all their work.

Resolution 2025-8, a resolution regarding the SRF Loan Program and the acceptance of the Preliminary Engineering Report. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-8 by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2025-8 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-8. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Fire Chief Jeff Sheets with a slide presentation regarding the training session which was held the past weekend. Fire Departments from Decatur, Monroe, Berne, and Preble had participated in the event. Councilwoman Wilder and Community Coordinator Jamie Gephart had participated in the training session. Wilder shared she had hands-on experience regarding cutting a door from an automobile, riding in an ambulance, and entering a burning building. Wilder noted the only words she could use to describe the day were "Incredible Day." Wilder shared it was amazing to realize all the firemen had to consider during any emergency. Wilder also encouraged persons that might be interested to apply to be a fireman. She also thanked all the various departments for volunteering their time for the training session.

Department Heads Input:

Josh Zimmerman, Civil Infrastructure and Stormwater Manager, commented that 200 feet of pipe had just been installed near the Moose.

Council Input:

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 Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:38 p.m.