

**CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 15, 2025**

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, July 15, 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, and Jenny Bowers-Shultz present and Abby Wilder was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the July 1, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the July 1, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was covered by Community Coordinator Jamie Gephart regarding two Event Forms. The first Event Form was for an August 30, 2025 closing of a portion of Schirmeyer Street for their annual block party. The event would set up at 11 A. M., but the block party would be held from 6-11 P.M. Dyer made a motion to accept the Event Form for the Schirmeyer Street Block Party. Second by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The second Event Form was from St. Mary's Catholic Church for their annual Fall Fest to be held on September 13 and 14, 2025. The street closing requirement is for Sunday, September 14, 2025 with 5th Street closed from Monroe Street to Madison Street from 6 A.M. to 5 P.M. Murray made a motion to accept the Event Form for St. Mary's Catholic Church. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was a continuation of the discussion regarding the hours and pay rate for the cleaning person at the MERIT Center. With no contracts to be renewed with increased funding, that did not address any additional income at this time. As part of the discussion, Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman shared \$12,000 had been included in the budget, but the current cost is \$35,800. Thus, Hackman noted a decision needed to be made for the future.

It was shared more walkers use the area in the winter, compared to the summer and City Attorney Anne Razo shared the King's Kingdom Child Care facility would have a contract change perhaps in August if it reaches its higher attendance goal.

Bowers-Shultz made a motion to cut the hours from 23 to 20 and keep the pay rate at \$30 per hour. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Department Heads Input:

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, shared the sidewalk portion of the Community Crossing Matching Grant has been completed with the street milling and paving to begin next week. Gilbert shared the Roundabout project had slowed some as the contractors needed to complete some work they were responsible for at other projects. However, when they return to Decatur, they plan to put in extra hours including weekend hours.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber reported that Officer Bessesen had returned to the road this past Sunday.

Mayor Rickord shared both Chief Sheets and Chief Gerber had attended the Air Show in Fort Wayne this past weekend, and he thanked them for their help.

Council Input:

Dyer inquired regarding what would go in the middle of the roundabout. Mayor Rickord shared the current plan has some flowers in the design. Mayor Rickord noted any object placed in the middle area had to be large or safety would become an issue of people crossing the street to enter the middle to check things out.

Murray had a great experience with the CCMG crew. He said the finished sidewalks look good.

Public Input:

Jim Langham of the Berne Witness shared a picture had been printed in the Berne Witness of the kids at the fireworks event.

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 7:08 P.M.