

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
August 15, 2023

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on August 15, 2023 at 6:00 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 August 1, 2023 meeting. Coshow made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a code enforcement issue. Brad Roe, Assistant Building and Zoning Superintendent handed out photos regarding issues at 213 W. Rugg Street. Roe informed the Board that the issues became known on May 23, 2023 with accumulated rubbish and tall grass. An abatement notice was sent on May 26, 2023 and delivered by the police on May 31, 2023. The issue was not abated and a notice to appear at tonight's meeting was sent on August 2, 2023. Todd Lee appeared representing his ex-wife, Lisa Klinetob who is the owner of the property and was unable to attend since she had back surgery. Mr. Lee agreed to take care of the yard work the rest of the year, and also get rid of all the rubbish.

A second code enforcement issue at 1033 Angus Drive was next considered. Don Dale, owner of the home came forth noting he had learned of the problem from an in-law after a fee of \$410 had been invoiced and fines of \$6,000 had been placed as a lien against the property. It was explained that several notices had been sent to the record owner regarding the abatement of weeds and vegetation with no results. As a result, the City went in and invoiced \$410 for work done. Mr. Dale shared that his brother-in-law had notified him of the problem, and on January 11, 2023 after learning of the invoice amount of \$410, he had paid the bill at City Hall. At that time, he was unaware of any other cost. However, he sent an eviction order to the renter of the home and has since made costly repairs to the home. Mr. Dale was notified by his bank in June that a \$6,000 lien had been placed against the property. City Attorney Anne Razo informed Mr. Dale that the City had followed the Indiana law and there was no fault regarding the City's policy and procedures, the notices were sent to the address on record. Mr. Dale commented that he was not ignoring the issues as he just wasn't aware of the additional cost. It was noted that the City had sent various notices with the final notice sent on June 21, 2023, which was a letter from City Attorney Razo setting up fourteen (14) days to abate or the City would go in and clean up and invoice for the cost which ended up being \$410, plus \$100 per day fines. Mr. Dale stated that he was simply asking for leniency in regarding the \$6,000 lien. Mr. Dale informed the Board that he had evicted the tenant and he plans to make needed repairs and try to sell the property. City Attorney Razo outlined possible solution the Board had, such as, let the fines remain in place, release a partial amount of the fines, or release fines as condition regarding repairs made to the property. It was noted that the taxes had been in escrow and that is how Mr. Dale learned of the lien against the property. Following a lengthy discussion, Fullenkamp made a motion to waive half the fines against the property if the property is abated in three (3) months for vegetation and rubbish, and the holes in the shed are repaired and when completed for Mr. Dale to contact the Code Enforcement Department. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets appeared before the Board requesting permission to move firefighter Nick Patton from probationary status to 1st Class Firefighter. Fullenkamp made a motion to grant the request to move Nick Patton from probationary status to 1st Class Firefighter. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Fire Chief Sheets then sought permission to purchase new 800 MHz and VHF radios from ERS Wireless who will no longer service the current radios. The QPA pricing for the radios is estimated at \$24,000, and funds are already budgeted in the LIT-Public Safety fund. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow Chief Sheets to move forward with the purchase of the new radios. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

In reference to the Agreement between the City and the County regarding purchasing land at the MERIT Center for building a garage to store vehicles used by the Adams County Council on Aging and a future County-wide transportation system, the City Attorney Razo requested approval to work with Brett Miller of Miller Land Surveying for the survey of the property. Fullenkamp made a motion to proceed with using Miller Land Surveying for the survey work. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was a request to allow painting of a mural on the north side of a building at 241 N. Second Street to advertise the business operated by Betsey Gamble known as Betsey's Boutique Shop. Coshow made a motion to approve the mural. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before the Board regarding work for updating the ball diamonds in Kekionga Park. Gilbert shared that he had been working with the Men's Softball League and as a result Gilbert had met with Jim Cruea of Custom Net Backstops and the netting and poles can be completed at a cost of \$98,750. The contract includes three (3) payments of one-third paid prior to commencement of the work, one-third when all cabling work is complete and one-third when all work is finished. Gilbert informed the Board that the cost is below \$150,000 so no bidding is needed, and there is no other contractor that does this type of work, and they can begin work this month. Custom Net Backstops is the same contractor who did the netting and poles at the REV Sports Complex. Gilbert mentioned that with proper care, the netting would likely last 15 years or so. Coshow made a motion for Gilbert to proceed with the project at a cost of \$98,750 with Custom Net Backstops. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert then shared that the second part of the project at Kekionga Park was the lighting and AEP requires a new electrical panel. The lighting isn't necessary at this time, but with the needed lead time if permission isn't granted the cost will go up. The two parts of funding includes quotes from Bleeke Electric, LLC for \$7,690 to install a new 400 AMP single phase electric service and \$56,500 to install LED lighting, poles and wiring for the Kekionga Softball field. AEP will run wiring underground, with the City putting in the conduit. With these projects, the work of replacing the diamonds at Kekionga Park would be complete. This work will be paid from the American Rescue Plan and Patronicity funds. Coshow made a motion to accept the two (2) quotes of \$7,690 and \$56,500 from Bleeke Electric. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The work with American Structurepoint regarding the 5-Points Project was next considered. Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert had met with American Structurepoint representatives this morning and since the gas station had been purchased and evacuated, INDOT requires an environmental study to be done. There will be no additional cost, just will be moving funds within the contract from right-of-way services to environmental services. Amendment #2 to the original contract with American Structurepoint was presented. Coshow made a motion to sign and approve the amendment to the contract with American Structurepoint. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager shared information regarding a new storage building to be located on the Elm Street property. The City had sold the buildings on Grant Street to the Adams County Regional Sewer District and per the contract, the City is to be out of the buildings by March, 2024. Gilbert estimated the cost of an 80 x 200-foot stick building to be \$450,000 to \$500,000, and will want to insulate and heat the building. Due to the cost this will require putting the project out for bids. Gilbert had talked to a couple of contractors and they could act sooner rather than later, especially regarding the concrete needed. Coshow made a motion for Gilbert to move forward with getting more specific information regarding the costs and so forth, with Council determining the funding. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

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

Adjournment was at 7:05 P.M.