

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 22, 2024

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 6:29 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 August 6, 2024 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 6, 2024 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Murray made a motion to make a matter of record the appropriate posting of the meeting changed from August 20, 2024 to August 22, 2024. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was presented on behalf of the Decatur Redevelopment Commission (DRC). Resolution 2024-7, a resolution which provided for the DRC to establish a Residential TIF, was brought forth. City Attorney Anne Razo summarized what was involved with a Residential TIF, noting the legislature had rather recently allowed for Residential TIF's as they recognized the need for additional housing in many areas around the state. Residential TIF funds can be used for housing development, improvement of blighted areas, and so forth. The Residential TIF areas included in the resolution are recently annexed areas of Meadows of Cross Creek and Lake Shores. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2024-7 by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2024-7 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-7. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Colton Bickel, Director of Adams County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) and Eric Sorg of Metal N Motion appeared before the Council regarding a five-year abatement for upgrade of equipment in the amount of \$478,280. It was shared the new equipment would allow for work to be completed 4 time faster which would allow for serving more clients. Metal N Motion has been in operation in Decatur for 11 years. Mayor Rickord thanked Mr. Sorg for doing business in Decatur. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Resolution 2024-8, a resolution allowing for the five-year abatement for Metal 'N Motion, by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2024-8 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-8. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted. City Attorney Razo noted that the next step would be a Public Hearing which will be held on September 3, 2024.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman shared the dates of October 8-10, 2024 for the AIM IDEA's Summit, being held in Fort Wayne, if any Council Member was interested in attending.

The remainder of the evening dealt with the input regarding the 2025 Budget as prepared by Clerk-Treasurer Hackman and input from the various Department Heads. It was noted the increase in most budgets was a result of salary increases and a large increase for insurance.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber shared he would like to add up to 4 additional Officers, including a second School Resource Officer in the future. The largest increase in the 2025 budget is the purchase of body cameras. It was shared that the Police Department takes numerous calls, many of which are not the Department's responsibility. Bowers-Shultz noted she hoped something could be done to relieve the Police Department of all the calls and time spent around animal control. She noted animal control should not be the responsibility of the Police Department. Mayor Rickord shared the concern and noted talks need to take place the County Official regarding animal control. Murray noted a program of Student Advocates in the Fort Wayne schools that might be something to consider. At the end of his presentation, Chief Gerber invited anyone wanting to ride along with an Officer, and noted that could be arranged.

As the Fire Department Budget was considered, it was noted that Fire Chief Jeff Sheets, who was unable to attend this evening's meeting, would also like to add a member to the Department in the future. Members discussed the future need of a new Aerial/Ladder Fire Truck and the different financing options. Regarding the Fire Department Budget, increases were made for vehicle repairs due to the age of the current Ladder truck. Mayor Rickord noted the amounts paid by the various Townships for fire protection needed to be studied as a barn fire in any Township uses up the entire yearly payment made by the Township.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, noted a decrease in his total budget, due to a vehicle purchase in 2024. Other minor increases in the Department's Budget was mainly for additional costs for certification which he and Assistant Brad Roe will need to complete.

Regarding the rest of the Departments, Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, noted very little changes in his budget. Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman noted the other budgets were in line with the 2024 Budget except for the increases in salaries and insurance costs.

Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman noted a total increase of just under \$400,000 in the General Fund Budget and increase of less than \$5,000 across all City Funds.

Dyer 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, Fullenkamp made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:12 P.M.