

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 7:02 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 Jenny Bowers-Shultz, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, 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 August 19, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 19, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was an update regarding the funding amounts for the Water Utility Improvement Project. Jennifer Wilson of Crowe, LLP and Ben Adams of Commonwealth Engineering, LLC were present to share the figures they had presented to the Board of Public Works and Safety earlier this evening and to answer any questions. Wilson shared the State Revolving Fund (SRF) is offering Decatur a \$5.5 million grant which would be a forgivable bond (no pay back). Another \$2.5 million would be a zero-interest loan. Another \$10 million would come as a loan, and she shared the current SRF interest rate is 2.88% which is half the current market rate. The remaining \$3 million would be another loan with a 35-year payback period.

Wilson shared the original approved rate increase that goes into effect January 1, 2026 is \$4.40. Due to the proposed \$21 million project, the estimated increase is an additional \$6.60 for a total of \$11.00.

Dyer made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Board of Public Works and Safety to proceed at the higher funding levels and water rate increases. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was action on Ordinance 2025-7, an ordinance to approve an increase to Decatur Police Department Fees for Copies and Recordings. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-7 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2025-7 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-7 on its second and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, the roll call vote passed 5-0.

Murray made a motion to make a matter of record the letter of resignation of Police Officer Eric Mitchell who is leaving to join the Indiana State Police. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was Ordinance 2025-8 which amends schedules I, III and VIII of Chapter 77 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, as supplemented, by addressing traffic flow changes at intersection of Adams Street, Winchester Street and Second Street. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2025-8 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2025-8 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-8 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, the roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2025-8 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2025-8 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-8 on its second and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Mayor Rickord shared he and Operations Manager Jeremy Gilbert had been working with USI regarding a grant to improve the safety for students going to and from the Bellmont Campus. With the reception of the grant, a dedicated fund needed to be established. Thus, Ordinance 2025-9, an ordinance to establish a highway safety improvement grant fund, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2025-9 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2025-9 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-9 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2025-9 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2025-9 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-9 on its second and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was taken and passed 5-0.

Mayor Rickord recognized Clerk-Treasurer Eran Hackman for her work with the State Board of Accounts to get everything worked out regarding the funds needed for the grant.

Department Heads Input:

Bill Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent of the Decatur Water Department, shared that the Department has developed a wellhead protection plan to help protect the underground aquifer and water supply wells from any potential contamination. The plan has been approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Public Input:

Decatur resident Deonarine “Raj” Rajkumar appeared before the Council asking the Council to honor former Mayor John Schultz by naming the new roundabout the “John Schultz Roundabout.” Raj noted he was offering to pay for the signage.

Council Input:

Dyer acknowledged John Summers, Adams County Council Member, for his efforts to get the flag flying atop the Adams County Court House. Dyer shared it is a great sight to see the flag flying there again.

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 Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:33 p.m.