

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
September 3, 2024

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on September 3, 2024 at 6:00 at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. Members present were Tyler Fullenkamp, Craig Coshow and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Kevin Hackman and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the August 22, 2024 meeting. Coshow made a motion to adopt the minutes from August 22, 2024 as emailed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was the opening of bids for work at 138 N. Second Street. Coshow made a motion to make a matter of record the publication of the notice to bidders. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Following the motion, it was noted that only one (1) bid had been received, a bid from Limberlost Construction. Limberlost's bid was \$504,721 for the renovation/construction work. An alternate bid of \$46,227 was provided for work to be done on the back part of the building. The Board took the bid under advisement as per a motion by Coshow which was seconded by Fullenkamp. Colton Bickel, Director of the Adams County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) will study the bid since the ACEDC has responsibility for the building. Action regarding the bid will be taken at the September 17, 2024 meeting.

Chris Brite, Assistant Police Chief, appeared before the Board seeing permission to start the application process following the resignation of Officer Jagg Nunez last Friday, August 30, 2024. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow for the application process for a police officer to begin. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to make the letter of resignation form Officer Jagg Nunez a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, appeared before the Board regarding the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding Contractor Registration. It was noted that there were no changes in current operation, but simply putting the SOP in written form. Coshow made a motion to make a matter of record the proposed SOP for Contractor Registration. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Witte then continued his appearance before the Board seeking approval of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Code Enforcement as currently being done. Witte asked that the SOP being used be recognized as a matter of record. Witte reiterated the document outlined current operations with no changes. Coshow made a motion to approve the SOP for Code Enforcement as presented. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Witte brought forth a third item which dealt with a demolition order. The proposal included a fee change which was debated as Fullenkamp inquired if the proposed fee of \$450 was sufficient to cover the City's costs. No action was taken this evening. City Attorney Anne Razo noted that a new ordinance was needed with a change in fees.

A fourth item was brought forth for informational purposes by Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent. Witte proposed an application be used for public access to records. It was shared the form should probably be used by all City Departments. City Attorney Anne Razo noted she would like to work with Code Enforcement personnel and the proposal was taken under advisement for later action.

Witte then brought forth a fifth item regarding a Business Registration. Witte explained that when buildings change ownership, many of the new owners don't realize the building is zoned for a certain use. Witte gave some recent examples and shared this can lead to unknown costs that were not contemplated at the purchase of the building. Attorney Razo noted that this may require change to Ordinances and should be tabled until further research.

Karey Fuelling, Stormwater Superintendent, appeared before the Board seeking permission to hire a Belmont High School student from the ICE Program. Fullenkamp shared he felt that hiring a student from the ICE program was a great way to get future employees for the Department. Fullenkamp made a motion to allow for Fuelling to hire a Belmont student enrolled in the ICE program at a rate of \$16 per hour for up to 3 hours per day. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The final item on the agenda was presented by City Attorney Anne Razo as she shared the US Railroad Vest Corporation had two (2) parcels of land to donate to the City. The land comes from abandoned rail lines in the vicinity of Elm, Winchester and Schirmeyer Streets. Attorney Razo shared she had been contacted by County Attorney Mark Burry seeking support for the land to be deeded to Decatur. The lots were 4.85 acres and 1.70 acres. Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager, noted talk had taken place 5 or 6 years ago regarding the area and tying it into the trails program. Following discussion, Coshow made a motion to accept the land from US Railroad to be taken by the City of Decatur/Parks Department. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. Following the motion, Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent shared concern about the condition of the area, especially in light of Code Enforcement.

Following the discussion of the newly acquired land, it was shared there are several areas of City property (alleys) that need to be cleared. Mayor Rickord asked Witte to prepare a list of areas needing work to be looked at for possible work to be scheduled.

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

Adjournment was at 6:55 P.M.