

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Rickord. Roll call was taken to show Councilmen Craig Coshow, Matt Dyer, Tyler Fullenkamp, Scott Murray, and Wylie Sirk were in attendance. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo.

Mayor Rickord invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the September 5, 2023 meeting, and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Dyer then made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session, which was held on September 13, 2023. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Carol Riley of Antoine Rivarre chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Ms. Riley shared about an event recently held; and sought permission to have banners displayed that read “Proudly Honoring”, for local veterans, living or deceased. A sample of the banner was displayed, noting they would include a picture of the veteran, branch, and rank. The criteria for a veteran to participate in the flag project were listed in a handout, as well as other information being shared. The number of posts, the length of time the banners would be displayed, and the location were discussed. Following a discussion, which was favorable, Ms. Riley was directed to share the project before the Decatur Main Street Design Committee for a decision, and then a recommendation to come before the Council. It was noted that all groups—the DAR, American Legion, VFW, and the Chamber to work together on the project.

Next on the agenda was Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent, and Zane Martin, Director of NeighborLink of Adams County. At the September 5, 2023 meeting of the Board of Works, Witte had spoken to the possibility of donating to the group as it has helped with various projects around the City, especially for various Code Enforcement issues with weeds and vegetation clean-up. Witte had then volunteered to ask Mr. Martin to attend this evening’s meeting to explain the program. Following the input and discussion, Council members, via consensus, put any donation on hold until the next meeting in order to possibly find available monies for any donation.

A Public Hearing regarding the 2024 Budget had been advertised for 7:00 p.m. this evening. Thus, Coshow made a motion to suspend the Council meeting. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Coshow then made a motion to open the Public Hearing for any input regarding the 2024 Budget. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright provided the following figures to be included in the ordinance for appropriations and tax rates: Rainy Day, \$167,500; General, \$6,439,520; Fire Pension, \$314,925; Police Pension, \$582,250; Local Road & Street, \$145,000; Motor Vehicle Highway, \$1,963,777; Park & Recreation, \$961,017; Cumulative Capital IMP (CIG TAX), \$66,000; Cumulative Capital Development, \$191,578; and Economic Development Income Tax CREDIT, \$895,000. Thus, a total of \$11,726,567; which included \$5,337,850 as the adopted Tax Levy, and an adopted Tax Rate of 1.4379. The Home Ruled Funds (Those not reviewed by the DLGF) included Riverboat \$70,000, LLECE \$20,000, LOIT-Public Safety \$532,242, Redevelopment Commission \$450,000, Public Art \$20,000, and ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant at \$696,050 for a total of \$1,788,292. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that the Notice to Taxpayers is available online at www.budgetnotices.in.gov.

The Clerk-Treasurer asked if there were any comments from the public in regards to the 2024 Budget, there were no comments received, so Coshow made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Coshow made a motion to reconvene the Council meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2023-15, an ordinance for appropriations and tax rates for budget year 2024 was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-15 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-15 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-15 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-15 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-15 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and the roll call vote was 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-15 until the October 3, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2023-14, an ordinance to amend the current salary Ordinance 2022-16, Section 4.B for overtime for traffic safety and enforcement, was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-14 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-14 by short title. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-14 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote was held and Ordinance 2023-14 was adopted by a 5-0 vote.

Ordinance 2023-16, an ordinance fixing the salaries and wages of City employees for the year 2024, was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-16 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and

City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-16 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-16 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-16 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-16 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-16 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, the roll call vote was 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-16 for its third reading on October 3, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2023-17, an ordinance to establish salaries for the Elected Officials for the year 2024, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-17 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-17 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-17 on its first reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote showed 5-0 passage. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-17 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-17 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-17 on its second reading. Seconded by Murray, the roll call vote was 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-17 until the October 3, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

City Attorney Anne Razo noted she had worked on a draft resolution for a banner policy which she will share with Council members to review for the October 3, 2023 meeting.

Mayor Rickord announced that Brooks Construction would begin paving streets this Thursday.

Council Input:

Coshow announced the concert that was rescheduled would be held this Thursday evening and would be the final concert of this year's series. He also mentioned the Highland Games will be held on October 7, which has more athletes trying out than in previous years, and Decatur Main Street will be holding a fall event on the Madison Street Plaza on Friday, October 6, 2023.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims before the City. Seconded by Murray, 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 7:28 P.M.