

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2025

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 6:42 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 September 16, 2025 meeting and Dyer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the September 16, 2025 meeting as emailed. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was a request from the Decatur Chamber of Commerce for \$1,000 to help fund the Highland Games. Dyer made a motion to fund the Highland Games at \$1,000. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord shared the Department Heads and Assistants were involved in a Leadership Training program and the second of four three-hour sessions will be held tomorrow. The sessions are being facilitated by Kate Love-Jacobson who worked with the City of Angola on leadership training and also created a leadership program for Ball State University.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets appeared before the Council seeking permission to use \$8,998 from the Betty Walters Fund for 8 batteries and 2 chargers to connect the tools used as auto extrication tools. Wilder made a motion to approve the Betty Walters Funds to purchase the batteries and charges as passed earlier this evening by the Board of Public Works and Safety Members. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz, the motion was adopted.

Chief Sheets shared the agility and written tests had been completed for those applying for the full-time and volunteer firemen positions. With 14 applications, 6 are in contention to fill the two vacancies of the full-time staff and three are in consideration for the one vacancy on the paid-on-call staff.

Chief Sheets reminded the Council of the Department's Open House to be held on October 8, 2025 and shared the helicopter from Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, and the safety trailer from Indiana-Michigan Power will be available at 6:30 p.m. The Open House is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Dyer made a motion to make a matter of record the Certificate of Appointment to the Decatur Police Department for Officer Conrad Dyer. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2025-11, an ordinance amending the credit limit of credit cards by various departments was brought forth for second reading. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-11 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2025-11 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-11 on its second and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2025-13, an ordinance regarding Budget Appropriations and Tax Rates, was brought forth as Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-13 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Clerk-Treasurer Hackman read Ordinance 2025-13 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-13 on its second and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call was held and passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2025-14, an ordinance regarding an increase in Police Department Fees for copies and recordings was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-14 on its second reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2025-14 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-14 on its second and final reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0.

Two additional ordinances were brought forth.

Ordinance 2025-15, an ordinance establishing salaries for City Employees, was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-15 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2025-15 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-15 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2025-15 until the October 28, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2025-16, an ordinance to establish salaries for the elected officials was brought forth. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to place Ordinance 2025-16 on its first reading by short title only. Seconded by Wilder, the motion passed and Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2025-16 by short title only. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-16 on its first reading. Seconded by Wilder, a roll call vote was held and passed 5-0. Bowers-Shultz made a motion to table Ordinance 2025-16 until the October 28, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Wilder, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord announced the October 21, 2025 Council Meeting is moved to October 28, 2025 with various members attending conference.

City Attorney Anne Razo shared a topic that will need to be dealt with at the next Council meeting as INDOT wishes to purchase parcels of land along the Wendell Macklin Memorial Bridge. The City owns one parcel and the Parks and Recreation Department owns two parcels. INDOT offered the City \$1,000 for its land and \$9,740 to the City/Parks Department for that land. The City will vote on the \$1,000 offer while the Parks and Recreation Board will consider the \$9,740 offer. It was noted the contract needs to include a clause noting the land can continue to be used for the trail system. Dyer made a motion which was seconded by Wilder to proceed with the subject if the subject of the right to use the area is part of the trail is included. The motion passed.

Department Heads Input:

Police Chief, Kevin Gerber, noted that night shoot at the range will be on October 14th and 15th.

Erin Heyerly, Utilities Auditor, shared that yard waste pick-up will end on October 17, 2025.

Josh Zimmerman, Stormwater Superintendent, noted Schirmeyer project was finishing up and work on aeration basins will be next.

Public Input:

Barb Engle complimented the Decatur Police Department and the City noting they should be proud of the North Adams Resource Officer, Andrew Elwell, who presented a program for the Adams County Retired Teachers and all felt he was a tremendous example to be working with the youth of North Adams and the staff.

Erica Dyer, representative from PAWS was present, and Mayor Rickord told her someone should contact him regarding being placed on the agenda regarding a cat concern.

Murray made a motion to pay the claims against the city as presented. Seconded by Bowers-Shultz the motion was adopted.

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, Dyer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Fulllenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:08 p.m.