

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 7:16 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 November 8, 2023 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was the replacement of the boiler system at the MERIT Center, which had been discussed earlier in the evening by the Board of Public Works and Safety members. Board members recommended to Council to proceed with the repairs and replacement of the boiler, controllers, and pump totaling \$455,503.00 to be done by the Dilling Group. It was discussed that funds for the project would be from the READI Grant funds, and the money to be received from the County from the land to be purchased at the MERIT Center for Council on Aging. Dyer made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Board. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted. Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert informed Council that the chiller will also need replaced in the future, but is 42 weeks out, estimating September of 2024 to have the parts.

Resolution 2023-20, a resolution to transfer \$16,000 within the LIT-Public Safety Fund for the Police to purchase equipment for the new police vehicle, was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2023-20 by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2023-20 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-20. Seconded by Dyer, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2023-22, an ordinance of the City of Decatur's Capital Improvement Plan from revenues collected from LIT-Economic Development Income Tax distributions for the years 2024 and 2025, was brought forward for third reading. Sirk made motion to place Ordinance 2023-22 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-22 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-22 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0.

Next on the agenda was Mayor Rickord announcing his appointees to the Decatur Redevelopment Commission. Mayor Rickord noted Max Miller had shared his desire to not be reappointed. Thus, Mayor Rickord appointed John Summers to replace Max Miller. Mayor Rickord re-appointed Ron Storey and Jeremy Friedt, all one (1) year terms. Mayor Rickord also re-appointed Tim Ehlerding as the non-voting member representing the North Adams School board, which is a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2025. Fullenkamp made a motion to make Mayor Rickord's appointments to the Decatur Redevelopment Commission a matter of record. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

Sirk made a motion to make the Council's re-appointments of Jason Bird and John Craig Russett to the Decatur Redevelopment Commission a matter of record. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber appeared before the Council regarding the amendments to the golf cart and UTV ordinance to create uniform placement of registration stickers and the renewal process. The Police Chief recommended that the registration sticker to be placed on the rear of the golf carts and UTV's. Dyer made a motion to move forward with the Chief's recommendation regarding the sticker placement and the renewal process for the golf carts and UTV's. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Ordinance 2023-23, an ordinance to amend Chapters 72 and 76 of the Decatur Code of Ordinances of 2015, as supplemented, to unify the registration and renewal processes of golf carts and UTV's in use within the City limits was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-23 on first reading by short title only. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-23 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-23 on its first reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-23 on its second reading by short title. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed and City Attorney Razo read Ordinance 2023-23 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-23 on its second reading. Seconded by Dyer, a roll call vote passed 5-0. Sirk made a motion to table Ordinance 2023-23 for its third reading on December 5, 2023. Seconded by Dyer, the motion passed.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager appeared before the Council regarding the recycling program in the City. Gilbert noted that with the new system there are many more residents participating in recycling. Gilbert shared that Decatur's recycling is 20% higher than most area plans. There is a reduction of trash being sent to the landfill, but more residents are recycling, which the result is shortage of funds by year's end is estimated at about \$18,000. Gilbert informed Council that he receives calls daily from residents wanting to have recycle carts. Mayor Rickord expressed concerns regarding the drop off area on Elm Street since residents outside the City limits are using the dumpsters, but the City residents are paying for this service. A discussion was held in regards to using one of the dumpsters for cardboard only, and then taking the cardboard to the Adams County Solid Waste District, which could then profit from the sale of the cardboard, rather than taking the cardboard to New Haven with the other recyclables. Also mentioned was that signs have been posted that the drop off site on Elm Street is to be used for residents who live within the City limits. It was also suggested to add additional signage that County residents can drop off their recyclables at the Bellmont Road site, and also at the Adams County Solid Waste District at no cost. Gilbert and the Clerk-Treasurer will have final numbers for Council of the budget shortage prepared for the December 5, 2023 council meeting.

In regards to the repairs and replacement of the various aeration tanks at the Wastewater Plant as discussed earlier this evening during the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting, the Utilities Auditor, Kevin Hackman had requested using ARP funds to help pay a portion of the project. Dyer made a motion to use ARP funds, but then after further discussion, Dyer withdrew his motion from using ARP funds until the Utilities Auditor has final numbers to be presented at the next Council meeting on December 5th. It was discussed that the work needed to be done prior to the new company coming in the Industrial Park in 2024, so Dyer made a motion to move forward with the project and discuss funding at the December 5th council meeting. Motion was seconded by Sirk, the motion was carried.

Mayor Rickord announced that he had appointed Erin Heyerly, currently the Administrative Assistant in the Building and Zoning Department, to replace Kevin Hackman as

Utility Auditor beginning January 1, 2024. As a result, Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent will post the opening created in that Department.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright announced that all flood mitigation grants, which includes the 2017-1, 2017-2, 2017 Evergreen, 2018 and 2019 grants are completed. The balances need to remain in these grants until audited to be paid back to FEMA if requested.

The Clerk-Treasurer also reported that the annexation ordinance for Meadows of Cross Creek Section 4 has been published and recorded and is now annexed into the City limits.

Department Heads

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager shared that leaf pick up is winding down. It was noted that with Thanksgiving coming up, the Thursday trash pickup will be held on Friday with double routes.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets reported that the department has completed the Survive Alive House work with the 4th graders as of last week.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent announced that with the end of the year approaching there are ten (10) contracts signed to have sidewalks to be completed. Clerk-Treasurer Whitright asked to have the contracts prior to the December 19, 2023 Council meeting so she will be able to total the amount of funds to be encumbered.

Council Input:

Coshow noted the Tree Lighting event held this past weekend went well, and that the crowd was larger than normal. He thanked all involved in making the event a success.

Dyer complimented newly elected council member, Jenny Bowers-Shultz on her regular attendance at the council meetings before taking office to learn the process and topics of discussion.

Dyer made a motion to pay the claims before the City. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

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

Adjournment was at 8:04 P.M.