

CITY OF DECATUR
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2023

The City of Decatur Common Council met on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 7:13 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 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 called the meeting to order and invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting and Dyer made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Seconded by Murray, the motion was adopted.

First on the agenda, Mayor Rickord noted three (3) members of the Mayor's Youth Council were in attendance. Each introduced themselves, Vanessa Hebble a senior, Emma Key a junior, and Brianna Converset a sophomore from Belmont High School.

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 process of golf carts and UTV's in use within the City limits, was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to place Ordinance 2023-23 on its third reading by short title only. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Ordinance 2023-23 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-23 on its third and final reading. Seconded by Murray, a roll call vote passed 5-0.

Resolution 2023-21, a resolution to transfer dormant funds from the Sewage Utility Depreciation Fund to the Sewage Utility Operating Fund was brought forward. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2023-21 by short title only. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2023-21 by short title only. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-21. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Next on the agenda was to change the regularly scheduled meeting of Tuesday, January 16, 2024 for the Board of Public Works & Safety and the Common Council meeting to Tuesday, January 23, 2024. Mayor Rickord noted January 16, 2024 was the scheduled training date provided by AIM for newly elected officials and it is hoped several will attend. Murray made a motion to change the January 16, 2024 meetings to January 23, 2024. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright announced that the budgets for 2024 have been approved as presented to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). However, she had found a few revenue errors on the 1782 Notice from DLGF, so she will report back with final numbers at the next Council meeting on December 19, 2023.

Mayor Rickord reported that with the passage of the ordinance regarding banners hung over Second Street, a non-profit event, Adams County Strong who is charging a fee for the event

is requesting to place a banner from mid-December through February 2024 on the fence at Worthman Field. There is a concern about the types of organizations which might seek permission for banners in the future at Worthman Field. City Attorney Anne Razo shared that it comes down to a freedom of speech issue, and uniformity of application is also important. The Mayor commented that this is a good event, but the City will need guidelines. It was mentioned that billboards are available along 13th Street for advertising. By consensus, it was recommended to follow the policy similar to the one used for 2nd Street. Fullenkamp made a motion to not accept the request to hang banners on Worthman Field fence for this event. Seconded by Sirk, the motion was adopted.

Effective November 30, 2023 Verlin Butcher Asst. Wastewater Supt. retired after 39 years of service. It was shared that Mr. Butcher will be rehired in 2024 as a part-time on-call person for the Wastewater Department as he is a Certified Operator. Resolution, 2023-22, a resolution honoring Verlin Butcher was brought forth. Sirk made a motion to introduce Resolution 2023-22 to be read in its entirety. Seconded by Murray, the motion passed and City Attorney Anne Razo read Resolution 2023-22 in its entirety. Sirk made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-22. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Mayor Rickord noted Thomas Zelt, a kindergarten student at St. Joseph's Catholic School had won a day as Mayor. Mayor Rickord thanked all the City employees for their participation in the day's activities as well as his parents and St. Joe School for their participation.

Department Heads

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager reported leaf pick up will end this Friday, December 8, 2023.

Police Chief Kevin Gerber announced that the department is taking applications for a patrolman through December 20, 2023.

Fire Chief Jeff Sheets noted the retirement of Jim Barker after nearly 30 years as a paid on-call firefighter.

Jamie Gephart, Community Coordinator shared that there will be an informational meetings for the Façade Program on Thursday, December 7th, applicants must attend one of the meetings offered at 9 a.m. or 5 p.m. to qualify to receive funding.

Kevin Hackman, Utility Auditor reported that the Utilities office is working on changes of mailing for due dates in order to keep the lower postal rates. Letters are being sent to residents regarding the date changes.

Sirk made a motion to pay the claims before 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 Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted.

Adjournment was at 7:40 P.M.