

City of Decatur
Board of Public Works & Safety Minutes
December 19, 2023

The City of Decatur Board of Public Works and Safety members met on December 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers, 172 N. Second Street, Decatur. Members present were Craig Coshow, Tyler Fullenkamp, and Mayor Dan Rickord. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright and City Attorney Anne Razo.

The Clerk-Treasurer had emailed the minutes from the December 5, 2023 meeting. Fullenkamp made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

The first item on the agenda was the opening of bids for the 2023-2 Community Crossing Matching Grant project. Beth Johnson from USI Consultants along with City's Operations Manager, Jeremy Gilbert were present as the bids were opened. Three (3) bids were received as follows: Wayne Asphalt at \$903,291.25; Brooks Construction \$886,747.00; and E & B Paving \$910,559.75. All bids included the appropriate paperwork. Coshow made a motion that the bids be taken under advisement. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed.

Fullenkamp made a motion to make the legal advertisement regarding the seeking of bids for the Community Crossing Matching Grant a matter of record. Motion seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Jeremy Gilbert, Operations Manager brought forth the contract with Dilling Group to replace the chillers and also the rooftop unit at the MERIT Center at a cost of \$149,892.00. It was noted the chillers will not be received for approximately 42 weeks. Clerk-Treasurer Phyllis Whitright reported that funding is not included in the 2024 budget, so an additional appropriation will need to be done next year. Fullenkamp made a motion authorizing Mayor Rickord to sign the contract with Dilling Group to replace the chillers and the rooftop unit at the MERIT Center. Seconded by Coshow, the motion passed.

Next on the agenda was the 2024 Animal Care and Control Services Interlocal Agreement with Adams County in the amount of \$10,200.00. It was noted the agreement needed to be signed by the Board of Public Works and Safety members as well as the Mayor. The only change from the 2023 Agreement was the date. Coshow made a motion to proceed with signing the 2024 Animal Care and Control Services Interlocal Agreement with Adams County. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. The agreement will be forwarded to the County for their signatures.

Next was the 2024 School Resource Officer Contract with North Adams Community Schools (NACS). It was noted changes from the 2023 contract included some verbiage and the salary and benefits amount of the SRO officer. It was noted that Superintendent Kim Hiatt had signed the contract on behalf of NACS. Coshow made a motion to accept the 2024 contract for the School Resource Officer at NACS and authorized Mayor Rickord to sign the contract. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion was adopted. Councilmen Coshow and Sirk commented on Officer Trent Busse's presentation at a recent Rotary Club meeting, and that he had represented the City and the Police Department very well. Mayor Rickord also mentioned that he had been in the school for the first responders' lunch and saw what a calming effect the dog was for the youth.

Curt Witte, Building and Zoning Superintendent appeared before the Board regarding updates for two (2) code enforcement issues. The first update was for 922 Harrison Street with owner Richard Chapman being in attendance. Witte gave a chronological outline of the communications that had been delivered to Mr. Chapman beginning on August 31, 2023. The abatement order is for rubbish, weeds,

vegetation and an inoperable vehicle. It was shared that those notifications included the Board's direction to City Attorney Anne Razo to draft a letter regarding timelines and fines. Witte asked Mr. Chapman to address the Board members regarding his lack of response to the various notifications. Chapman first apologized for not cleaning up the area and for not communicating. He noted he did not understand the process and became scared. Mr. Chapman was instructed that communications is the important issue as the City is willing to work with residents as long as they communicate. Witte reported that the code enforcement fines total approximately \$4,600. And, a third-party contractor had been hired to clean up the area, and also a storage unit was rented to store the items from the property at a cost of \$81.00. Mr. Chapman informed the Board that he was on a fixed income and all he wanted from the storage unit was his lawn mower. Coshow made a motion to waive code enforcement fines to the City. Seconded by Fullenkamp, the motion passed. Mr. Chapman shared that he could pay the \$81 storage unit fee at the beginning of the month in order to obtain his mower. Fullenkamp was willing to work with Mr. Chapman to forgive the code enforcement fees, but not the costs for the contractor and the storage unit, since that would be a cost to the taxpayers, so Fullenkamp made a motion for the City Attorney to draw up a contract for Mr. Chapman to sign agreeing to reimburse the City for the contractor and storage unit costs on a monthly payment schedule for ten (10) months. Seconded by Coshow, the motion was adopted.

Building and Zoning Superintendent, Curt Witte then shared an update for 133 N. 8th Street noting a study for asbestos in the building will need to be done. Witte stated that he was waiting for the results, which he hoped to have for the January 2, 2024 meeting. The cost for demolition will be \$18,961. The asbestos study, and if asbestos needs to be removed, will be an additional cost. This will be paid from the unsafe building account within the Plan/Building & Zoning Department's budget.

Mayor Rickord thanked Curt Witte and those in the Building and Zoning Department for their work with code enforcement issues and referenced a social media comment critical of the time spent for code enforcement. Mayor Rickord commented that the home to be demolished is very close to the neighboring home, and could fall at any time. He also noted code enforcement issues are a result from complaints from neighbors.

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

Adjournment was at 6:45 P.M.