CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, November 2, 2015

On Monday, November 2, 2015, the City Council of the City of Decatur, Illinois, met in Regular Meeting at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, One Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, Illinois.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe presided; together with her being Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray and Jerry Dawson. Seven members were present. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared a quorum present.

City Manager Tim Gleason attended the meeting as well.

Mayor Moore Wolfe led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of October 19, 2015 City Council meeting were presented. Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Councilman Dana Ray, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

This being the time set aside for unfinished business and there being none, Mayor Moore Wolfe called for New Business.

This being the time set aside for Proclamations and Recognitions and there being none, Mayor Moore Wolfe called the first item of New Business.

R2015-119 Resolution Urging Illinois State Leaders to Release Non-General Fund Revenues Payable to Local Governments.

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel. On call of the roll, Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

2015-60 Ordinance Annexing Territory – 1464 French's Lane

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the Ordinance do pass; seconded by Councilman Dana Ray. On call of the roll, Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

R2015-120 Resolution Authorizing City Manager to Sign Agreement with BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois for Administration of City's Group Health Benefit Plans.

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Dana Ray. City Manager Tim Gleason stated there had been a reduction in the amount from $850,000 to approximately $800,000 for 2016 services. On call of the roll, Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

R2015-121 Resolution Accepting the Bid of Jackson Ford, Decatur, IL, for the Purchase of Two (2) Ford 2016, Interceptor Mid-Size Utility Vehicles.

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Lisa Gregory. On call of the roll, Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

R2015-122 Resolution Appointing City Treasurer and City Manager as Agents Pursuant to Investment Management Agency Agreement between Regions Bank and City of Decatur.

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel. City Manager Tim Gleason explained the City is entering into an additional relationship with Regions Bank to invest temporary excess funds. The fees will be increased approximately 45 basis points depending on the market. Citizen Sherry Procarione asked if there should be a separation between the Treasurer and investment; would it be considered a conflict of interest. Councilman Chris Funk asked for clarification as to whether these investments were being made within the parameters of the City's investment policy. City Manager Gleason answered that was correct. Councilman Bill Faber asked if there were consultations with other banks in terms of deals they would present to the City. City Manager Gleason believed this was an exclusive conversation with Regions because they hold the City funds. On call of the roll, Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

Mayor Moore Wolfe called for Consent Calendar Items A through B and asked if any Council member wished to have an item removed from Consent Calendar. Councilman Bill Faber requested Item B be removed. The Clerk read Item A:

A. Receiving and Filing of Minutes of Boards

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved that Consent Calendar Item A be approved by Omnibus Vote; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

Clerk read Item B:

B. Resolution Approving Appointments to the Decatur Civic Center Board.

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel. Councilman Bill Faber is concerned about Mr. Bauer being appointed to the Board because he is a member of City staff. These boards are to be citizen's boards and are to function as independent boards. Councilman Faber suggested having a liaison person instead or City staff could monitor the board. Councilman Pat McDaniel agreed that a position as a liaison instead as an official member of the board may be better. On call of the roll, Councilman Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Councilman Bill Faber voted nay. Six ayes and one nay. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

This being the time for Appearance of Citizens, the following appeared:

James Taylor said he had a problem and he called every City Council member and State representative. Bill Faber was the only Council member that returned his call and this is the second time this has happened.

Russell Shulke spoke in regards to the safety and welfare of Decatur citizens. Mr. Shulke commended Council for their vote on the Ash Avenue development concern.

David Burkham, President and C.E.O. of Decatur Ambulance Service (D.A.S.) addressed Council about the City going into the ambulance service with the Fire Department again. D.A.S. objects to the City going into any ambulance service with the Fire Department. D.A.S. does a good job. Studies show the Fire Department cannot return any more than 15% of the costs of ambulance services.

Diana Champion shared her concern on the growing problem of synthetic marijuana manufactured and sold in Decatur. The drug effects all ages. Ms. Champion wants to bring awareness to the problem and get it stopped.

James Yutsy, Paramedic Supervisor with D.A.S. objected to the City providing any funds and the creation of an A.L.S. service with the Fire Department in the 2016 Budget proposal. Mr. Yutsy did not agree with the City trying to create a revenue off of a tax paying business in this community. He believed the Mayor and the City Manager had been given misleading information about how D.A.S. operates.

Lisa Stanley requested the Council to consider going into a Study Session to look at raising the minimum wage to $10.00 an hour in Decatur.

Chris Moore spoke about raising the minimum wage. He believed minimum wage had to be handled at the State and local level. Minimum wage is going to go up; why has Decatur always been resistant to change.

Rob Wilson asked Council to invest in families and community. Mr. Wilson thought it would be a good idea to look at minimum wage because it is definitely needed.

Mike Smith supports Councilman Bill Faber's request to study the minimum wage.

Sherry Procarione asked if the Council could consider building a new library. Ms. Procarione is against the proposed study session for the minimum wage increase. She believes the ambulance care needs to stay private and be separate.

Mayor called for Other Business.

Councilmen Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Lisa Gregory and Chris Funk said that they had not received any telephone calls from James Taylor and they would be available after the meeting to give him their telephone numbers.

Mayor called for Recess to Study Session.

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved to recess to Study Session for the City Manager's Six Month Report of Progress, Goals and Priorities; seconded by Councilman Lisa Gregory. On call of the roll Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. City Manager Tim Gleason began his presentation by saying his main priority is addressing the declining property values and overall desirability of Decatur. City Manager Gleason introduced six priority areas that speak to the main priority. The six areas were:

1. Customer Service – Staff only has one opportunity at creating an impression and that is the initial public contact. Find a way to make a positive connection with the community the staff serves.

2. Board/Community Involvement – Expects staff participation in the community and senior staff's participation on City Boards and Commissions. Another item, there is a City Health Fair planned for early 2016 for City employees.

3. Annexations – Annex property as voluntary request or water service agreement occur. There are approximately 450 current potential property annexations.

4. Strengthening Community Relationships – City Manager Gleason would like to set up regular meetings with the landlords in the future. Explore ways to give landlords more leverage with problem tenants. Continue strong code enforcement of the different properties.

   Developers / Business Community / Community Partners - To continue to build flexibility in the processes for developers. Make expansion or development as desirable as the City can.

   It is critical to build a relationship with School District 61, Macon County, Park District and Labor.

   Seize opportunities to build relationships with minority hiring and contracting.

5. Economic Development – City Manager Gleason identified the Economic Development team members and showed slides of economic successes. City Manager Gleason said "Shop Decatur" is critical; it can make a difference.

6. Community Growth Revenue Streams – City Manager Gleason shared three opportunities the City has: 1) Ambulance service revenue opportunity to offset some of the facility costs that are coming to the Fire Department. 2) Proposed a local Motor Fuel Tax to improve local roads 3) Increase gaming and liquor license fees to generate a revenue stream for neighborhood cleanup and redevelopment. Taxing each video gaming machine.

City Manager Tim Gleason thanked Council for their support and hoped the presentation furthered their vision for the community.

Councilman Pat McDaniel would not go along with getting the Fire Department involved with an ambulance. Economic Development is key to keeping this going. Councilman McDaniel expressed his desire to have the bus hours extended so people can get to and from work. He would go along with a MFT Tax as long as it was tied in to a comprehensive program where everybody pays the burden and the money has to go towards improvements to the whole community not just a targeted area. The City needs to put more money into cleanup activities in the community.

Councilman Jerry Dawson was in favor of making the tenants pay their own bills. He would encourage Code Enforcement Officers to have a rapport with landlords/tenants. He would support a Motor Fuel Tax and the priority should be the pavement. Councilman Dawson believes in free enterprise but he doesn't believe in government getting involved when the service is already being provided. The City does need to figure out a way to fund the Fire Department facilities.

Councilman Dana Ray did not want to revisit the ambulance service again. The City needs to go ahead and do the Motor Fuel Tax because the City needs to improve the streets. The funds for Urban Redevelopment need to be spread out for other projects, not just demolishing houses. She liked the educational component also. Councilman Ray explained that the entire State of Illinois needs to look at minimum wage not just Decatur.

Councilman Lisa Gregory said everyone should complement a City staff person if they had a really good customer service experience. Councilman Gregory was excited about the board community involvement and strengthening community relationships. She hoped through board community involvement to have the ability to engage faith based economic development. Councilman Gregory hoped the targeted road repair fund can create enough of a revenue stream to make an immediate impact. She was excited about the building the City's neighborhoods.

Councilman Bill Faber wants this Council to be talking about good paying jobs and paychecks almost all the time. Councilman Faber requested the City Manager to find ways to make City staff residency requirements work. He would like to work with the City Manager and staff to raise funds through a citizen service fee. Councilman Faber suggested an alternative idea to the Motor Fuel Tax would be to have a City vehicle sticker fee. He would like to hire one person who is focused to make all these programs happen. Councilman Faber thought the Council needed to look at bold ideas for our community and that is why he proposed a raise in the minimum wage.

Councilman Chris Funk liked that the City Manager spoke about a can do attitude in the City to be carried out to the community and developers. Councilman Funk stated if the City raises the minimum wage the reality is it will drive jobs out of the City.

Mayor Moore Wolfe appreciated that the City Manager is looking at various sources for revenue. She was excited about a dedicated stream of revenue to get the roads fixed. Mayor Moore Wolfe was excited about the City Manager's ideas to revitalize the housing stock in Decatur. Mayor Moore Wolfe thought the City's customer service has come a long way in the last five or six years.

Councilman Pat McDaniel wanted details about the programs. He doesn't want to get people into homes they can't afford.

Mayor Moore Wolfe announced the Closed Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Collective Bargaining Matters had been pulled.

There being no further business, Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the regular Council meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilman Dana Ray. On call of the roll, Councilmen Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the Council meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Approved November 16, 2015
Debra G. Bright
City Clerk