

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Monday, September 14, 2020

On Monday, September 14, 2020 the City Council of the City of Decatur, Illinois, met in a Study Session at 5:30 p.m., in the Decatur Civic Center Theater, One Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, Illinois.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe presided, together with her being Council members Lisa Gregory, David Horn, Chuck Kuhle, Pat McDaniel, and Rodney Walker. Councilman Bill Faber participated through electronic attendance pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(2) and a determination made by Mayor Moore Wolfe that an in-person meeting of all members of the City Council is not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared a quorum present.

City Manager Scot Wrighton attended the meeting as well.

Mayor Moore Wolfe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Moore Wolfe called for a Study Session on Decatur Police Department training, recruitment, tactics, transparency, and service to citizens.

City Manager Wrighton noted that the Study Session will serve to update the Council and citizens on measures that the Decatur Police Department have taken in the past to modernize the department, measures and strategies the Decatur Police Department plans to take in the future and initiatives for reducing the recent gun violence in Decatur.

Police Chief Jim Getz introduced Dr. Jeanelle Norman, NAACP Decatur Branch President.

Dr. Norman read a statement on behalf of the NAACP Decatur Branch regarding their position on racism in Decatur.

Mr. Rodney Franklin, member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity gave an overview of the fraternity and discussed the collaboration between the fraternity and Decatur Police Department to assist with building better relationships within the community.

Police Chief Getz presented a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about 21st Century Policing, various types of training sworn police officers have attended, and their involvement in ongoing community outreach. Police Chief Getz announced that officer worn body cameras will be issued and in use no later than the end of October and in 2021 the city will begin deployment of surveillance cameras in selected neighborhoods. Police Chief Getz answered questions from Council regarding using social workers to respond to calls, police officers living in high crime neighborhoods, recruitment of minorities, Care Trak program, ShotSpotter and a gun buy-back program.

Deputy Police Chief Jason Walker gave an overview of the Investigations Division that is made up of an Adult Investigations Unit, Juvenile Investigations Unit, Resource Officers and Street Crimes Unit. The Investigations Division has partnered with the FBI and DEA to help combat crime.

Reverend Courtney Carson talked about racism and the launch of the Jerry Dawson Civic Leadership Institute that offers students a pathway to pursue careers in public service.

Council thanked the Decatur Police Department for their efforts in combatting crime.

With no other discussion, Mayor Moore Wolfe called for Appearance of Citizens.

The following citizens provided comments to the Council: John Phillips Sr., Reed Sutman, Cameron Williams, Jacob Jenkins, Karl Coleman, Katie Burns, and Elijah England.

With no other discussion, Mayor Moore Wolfe called for adjournment. Councilman McDaniel moved the Study Session be adjourned; seconded by Councilwoman Gregory and on call of the roll, Council members Lisa Gregory, David Horn, Chuck Kuhle, Pat McDaniel, Rodney Walker, Bill Faber and Mayor Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

Mayor Moore Wolfe declared the Study Session adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved October 5, 2020
Kim Althoff
City Clerk