

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, May 2, 2016

On Monday, May 2, 2016, 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 Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Bill Faber, and Chris Funk. Councilman Jerry Dawson was absent. Six members present; one member absent. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared a quorum present.

City Manager Tim Gleason attended the meeting as well.

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

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

Russell Shulke read a statement about the creation of the Decatur Public Library.

City Clerk Debra Bright read the following list of Anticipated Action Items for the next regularly scheduled Council meeting:

1. 2015 Report on Minority Participation in Public Works Contracts
2. Resolution to Accept Bids and Award Contract for Micro Surfacing Project, City Project 2015-24
3. Resolution Appropriating Additional Motor Fuel Tax Funds to Improve the Mound Road Bridge Over Spring Creek East, Structure No. 058-3037, City Project 2013-25
4. Resolution Appropriating Additional Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Micro Surfacing Project, City Project 2015-24
5. Resolution to Accept Bids and Award a Contract for US Route 36 Bridge Lighting Replacement Project, City Project 2015-01
6. Resolution Appropriating Additional Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the US Route 36 Bridge Replacement Project, City Project 2015-01
7. Request for stop signs at the intersection of Illinois Street/Lincoln Avenue facing Lincoln Avenue
8. Request for stop signs at the intersection of Forest Avenue/Seigel Street facing Forest Avenue
9. Request for stop signs at the intersection of Illinois Street/Elmhurst Avenue, Illinois Street/Harrison Avenue, Illinois Street/Mueller Avenue, Illinois Street/Curtis Avenue with signs facing Elmhurst, Harrison, Mueller, and Curtis Avenues
10. Request for stop signs at the intersection of Calhoun Street/North Street facing North Street

11. Request to remove "No Parking" signs from the 600 block of E. Center Street
12. Request for handicap parking space in front of 238 S. Crea Street.

The minutes of April 16, 2016 City Council meeting were presented. Councilman Pat McDaniel moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Councilwoman Dana Ray, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Bill Faber, Chris Funk and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

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

Proclamations and Recognitions:

Angie Miller read a Proclamation declaring Saturday, May 14, 2016 National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive Day.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe presented Fire Chief Jeff Abbott and Councilwoman Dr. Dana Ray each with a plaque recognizing their immediate response and lifesaving effort of a citizen on April 4, 2016 at a Council meeting.

Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (DACVB) Executive Director Teri Hammel gave a presentation about the services the DACVB provides for planners and the various types of events the DACVB has assisted with.

2016-24 Ordinance Rezoning Property B-1 Neighborhood Shopping District to R-3 Single Family Residence District 1310 North Summit Avenue, was presented.

Councilwoman Dana Ray moved the Ordinance do pass; seconded by Councilwoman Lisa Gregory.

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Bill Faber, Chris Funk and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

2016-25 Ordinance Rezoning Property M-2 Heavy Industrial District to M-1 Intense Commercial/Light Industrial District 2882 North Dinneen Street, was presented.

Councilwoman Dana Ray moved the Ordinance do pass; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel.

Russell Shulke asked Council if Decatur needed another banquet hall.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe explained the developer is a private investor not the City of Decatur.

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Bill Faber, Chris Funk and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

R2016-47 Resolution Authorizing Execution of Quitclaim Deed for Property Located at 1022 W. Macon Street, was presented.

Councilwoman Dana Ray moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilwoman Lisa Gregory.

Assistant City Manager Billy Tyus explained the Resolution would allow for the sale of a single lot to the Decatur Housing Authority for a housing development in the Macon Street area. The Housing Authority received a grant from the Attorney General's office to use for part of this development.

Councilman Pat McDaniel asked Jim Alpi with the Decatur Housing Authority (DHA) if all the houses would be built at one time. Mr. Alpi said the first phase would be eight homes constructed all at the same time. Councilman Pat McDaniel asked what the DHA would do if they couldn't find qualified buyers. Mr. Alpi said as a last resort the DHA would develop a lease purchase program and will look at other options as well. The cost of construction is higher than the property is valued at and DHA anticipates having to discount in the form a soft second mortgage. Councilwoman Dana Ray asked Mr. Alpi to specify how this development was different than Wabash. Mr. Alpi explained Wabash was a neighborhood development that was primarily rental properties whereas this project is not intended to be that at all. Councilman Chris Funk had concerns with putting people into homes with negative equity and second mortgages; homeowners will have homes they can't really sell. Mr. Alpi said to look at this grant opportunity as reinvestment in our community. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe asked if there would be some type of counseling to help make sure the homeowners could afford to purchase these homes. Mr. Alpi said the prospective buyers would go through home counseling through a HUD approved counseling program.

John Phillips said people do come in and want to buy homes in this neighborhood. Mr. Phillips thought this was a great project for the west end.

Councilwoman Lisa Gregory said this was a step in the right direction towards Urban Renewal.

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Bill Faber, Chris Funk and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe called for Consent Calendar Items A through C and asked if any Council member wished to have an item removed from Consent Calendar.

The Clerk read Items A - C

A. Receiving and Filing of Minutes of Boards

B. R2016-48 Resolution Approving Appointments to DCDF Board

C. 2016-26 Ordinance Authorizing Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor 2100 Block East Cantrell Street Between 21st Street and 22nd Street Wild Dog Saloon – Bike Night

Councilwoman Dana Ray moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel.

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Bill Faber, Chris Funk and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

This being the time set aside for Other Business, and there being none, Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe called to Recess to a Study Session for the City Employee Residency Requirement.

Councilwoman Dana Ray moved to recess to Study Session; seconded by Councilwoman Lisa Gregory.

On call of the roll Councilmen Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Bill Faber, Chris Funk and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

City Manager Tim Gleason went over the Power Point Presentation from the previous Study Session last month on City Employee Residency Requirement. City Manager Tim Gleason said 51% of the City staff reside in Decatur. He clarified what binding arbitration was and if the City had Police or Fire refuse to concede on any residency desires the Council has it could end up in binding arbitration. City Manager Tim Gleason explained Springfield has 24 bargaining groups and currently 14 contracts with residency language, stating when Council approved the residency ordinance prospective employees would be covered. Springfield has not approved such an ordinance to date. Councilwoman Dana Ray said with the number of people exiting Decatur and with less property taxes Council really needed to press forward with the residency issue. Councilman Bill Faber said this is an opportunity to generate millions of dollars of revenue. Councilman Bill Faber called on the firefighters and police to take the lead on the residency requirement and make this work. Councilman Bill Faber recommended Council adopt an ordinance. Councilman Pat McDaniel thought the residency requirement was a step forward and to start with any new nonbargaining staff.

Russell Shulke said the City needs more than 51% of the City staff living in Decatur.

Lloyd Holman said 39 other communities are benefiting other than Decatur and 23 of those 39 are outside of the County. No tax dollars are going towards this County. We need people here that are interested in staying in Decatur.

Jim Taylor lets set an example to the other cities and have people volunteer and live in Decatur.

Councilman Funk would like to see some data on the last ten applicant pools. Councilwoman Lisa Gregory supported the residency requirements for new employees moving forward. Councilwoman Dana Ray let's look at ways we can give people the skill set to pass the Civil Service exam. City Manager Tim Gleason will bring a resolution forward at the next meeting for employees to live in the City and it is not binding for those represented by union contracts and if Council wishes to include nonrepresented employees that will be included as well.

City Clerk Debra Bright announced the Closed Executive Session for the Purpose of a Discussion Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body had been pulled from the Agenda.

There being no further business, Councilwoman Dana Ray moved the regular Council meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Bill Faber, Chris Funk and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the Council meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved May 16, 2016
Debra G. Bright
City Clerk