

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, March 3, 2014

On Monday, March 3, 2014, the City Council of the City of Decatur, Illinois, met in Regular Meeting and Study Session at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, One Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, Illinois. Mayor Michael T. McElroy presided; together with him being Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe and Dana M. Ray. Councilmen Larry W. Foster was absent. Six members were present. Mayor McElroy declared a quorum present.

City Manager, Ryan P. McCrady, attended the meeting as well.

Mayor McElroy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the meeting of February 18, 2014, were presented. Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Councilman Dana M. Ray, and upon call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray and Mayor McElroy voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

This being the time set aside for unfinished business and there being no unfinished business, the Mayor proceeded to New Business. There were no proclamations. At this time, Mayor McElroy recognized the members of the Robertson Charter School and players of the State Champion Wildcats basketball team. They finished the season with a record of 21 wins and only 5 losses. Mayor McElroy congratulated them and presented the team members and coaches with Stephen Decatur medallions. Councilman Pat McDaniel pointed out and congratulated the students for ranking number two in the school district scholastically.

Mayor McElroy congratulated and introduced Patrick Hoban, Economic Development Officer for the City of Decatur. Mr. Hoban provided an economic update on the City which included some of the following facts with regard to our community: Decatur is ranked number 2 in the country for affordable housing by the Wall Street Journal; Decatur is ranked number 3 in emerging logistics hubs by Business Facilities Magazine due to the Midwest Inland Port; Decatur is ranked in the Top 25 of the nation for Global Trade by Global Trade Magazine; Decatur has the Midwest Inland, multi-model hub which is rarely heard of; the City is spending \$89 million to dredge Lake Decatur which will increase its capacity by 30%; Decatur has completed the Downtown streetscape which has resulted in new restaurants and the remodeling of current restaurants; both high schools are being renovated; Decatur has one of the largest food drives in the nation; Richland Community College has a \$16 million project that includes building additions, renovations and the new Workforce Development Institute; and Decatur will in the very near future have a new Police facility. The City has had \$1 billion invested over five (5) years.

Mayor McElroy and City Manager McCrady recognized Billy Tyus and congratulated him for being honored at today's by Partners in Education at Richland Community College and for his continued involvement in the community with youth through the Decatur Public Schools. City Manager McCrady pointed out Mr. Tyus serves on the Robertson Charter School Board, coordinates the Mayor's Youth Council, and is involved with the Youth Leadership Council each year which teaches high school students about local government. He and his family invest their time in the community throughout the year in addition to his employment with the City.

2014-05 Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 66 Regulation of Lake Decatur, was presented.

Councilman Jerry J. Dawson moved the Ordinance do pass; seconded by Councilman Dana M. Ray.

City Manager McCrady provided an overview and stated this amendment will increase the annual license fees for boats, boat docks and waterfowl hunting blinds by 5% each year for the next 3 years. After the third year the fees will be adjusted by 2.5% or by the annual percentage change of the U.S. Department of Labor Midwest Urban Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater. Boat docks that are not located within the corporate limits of the City the fees will be twice the rate as those docks located within the corporate limits.

Councilman Pat McDaniel cautioned the City with regard to basing fee increases on the "market rate" because that may result in the loss of the number of boaters. City Manager McCrady advised the fees are below market rate and the City is not covering its costs for licensing. He stated with the dredging project moving forward the City hopes the number of boats on the lake will increase dramatically and boaters will view Lake Decatur as a more attractive destination which is the ultimate goal. In addition, he stated the City's goal is to cover its costs through an increase in volume.

Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray and Mayor McElroy voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Mayor McElroy called for Consent Calendar Items A through B and asked if any Council member wished to have an item removed from Consent Calendar. Items A through B were approved by Omnibus Vote.

Councilman Jerry J. Dawson moved that Consent Calendar Items A through B be approved by Omnibus Vote and seconded by Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler and on call of the roll Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray, and Mayor McElroy voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Receiving and Filing of Minutes of Boards and Commissions;

R2014-14 Resolution Authorizing Third Amendment to Contract of Sale with Harrison Management Group, LLC for Property Located at Mound Center

This being the time for Appearance of Citizens and none appearing, Mayor McElroy proceeded to Other Business at which time Councilman Jerry J. Dawson inquired about the section of the Carp Barrier that recently broke, he asked for an explanation as to what happened and the cost to repair the same. City Manager McCrady stated the Asian Carp Barrier failed when the City experienced the first massive flow of water come through the lake and a large chunk of ice went over the dam. The barrier did work in that it did not bring down the entire barrier. The City is still dumping a lot of water out of the lake and within a couple of weeks we will have to fish the barrier out of the tail pool so a determination may be made as to why it broke loose. At this time the City does not know if the part of the barrier that broke off can be reattached. The good news is that it did not tear down the entire barrier. The City will need to find out the methods to reinstall or repair it and review what the City has learned

about the experience and determine what caused it to break. Further, the City Manager addressed concerns relating to Asian Carp and stated the lake is not in danger of Asian Carpe at this time. Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler inquired if the City should look at purchasing some spare sections of the barrier in case this would happen in the future. The City Manager advised the barrier was custom made. Keith Alexander, Director of Water Management, explained no spare sections are available but the screen is a standard screening mesh. The contract for the dam construction and the design engineer contract are both still open and both firms are still under contract with the City.

There being no further business, Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe, and on call of the roll Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray, and Mayor McElroy voted aye. The Mayor declared the Council meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Approved March 17, 2014
Linda M. Swartz
City Clerk