

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

On Tuesday, February 18, 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, Larry W. Foster, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe and Dana M. Ray. Seven 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 3, 2014, were presented. Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Councilman Jerry J. Dawson and upon call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray and Mayor McElroy voted aye. Councilmen Larry W. Foster and Patrick S. Laegeler abstained. 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 and no recognitions.

Sue Lawson, President, Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations, introduced several participants of a pottery/ceramic class together with their craft item and those who attended the equestrian class. Ms. Lawson thanked those who participated and provided rides for those in need. Ms. Lawson introduced Kent West who stated street sign toppers were designed by the individual neighborhoods and the City's Public Works Department is helping with the placement of them. It was also stated there is a need for funding of 10 neighborhood topper signs. Ms. Lawson announced the next CONO meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 25 at the Decatur Public Library in the Madden Auditorium. CONO is hosting a "Meet the Candidates" forum. The meet and greet will begin at 5:30 p.m. at which time individuals may ask questions of the candidates on a one-on-one basis. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. there will be prepared questions asked by the CONO Board. The public is welcome. Ms. Lawson thanked Francie Johnson and Kent West for their participation and help throughout the year. Ms. Lawson mentioned in 2014 she would like to bring back Equestrian class and the arts class. She stated landscaping projects this spring and summer will also occur. Richelle Irons and Sue Lawson are implementing a children and adult skills pilot

program called "From the Inside Out". This program will include children and adults renovating/decorating one room in a home with articles the home already has. Ms. Lawson stated the cost of each individual street sign toppers is \$75.00.

R2014-09 Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Not to Exceed \$1,500,000 Note Payable Financing Arrangement for Certain Equipment for the Law Enforcement Center, was presented.

Councilman Larry W. Foster moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe.

City Manager McCrady explained items 3, 4, 5 and 6 pertain to the same project. If approved the resolution will allow the City Manager to enter into a borrowing agreement with Busey Bank to finance the acquisition of the furniture package, locker room package, technology package, telephone package and certain project management costs for the City's new police facility at 707 Southside Drive. The financing arrangement will be a note payable loan, with the equipment purchased offered as security in the transaction, five (5) year payment term, with fixed interest rate of 2.0%. City Manager McCrady and staff recommended approval of this item by Council. Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler inquired as to the timeline for the facility to be completed. City Manger McCrady advised the project is on time, June 1, 2014 is still a good date and on budget.

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

R2014-10 Resolution Accepting Bid of Bradford Systems Corporations for Locker, Shelving, and Storage, Decatur Police Department, was presented.

Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Jerry J. Dawson.

The City Manager provided an overview of this item stating the City worked with Dewberry and this will be a great improvement over the locker, shelving and storage the Police officers currently have. City Manager and staff recommended approval of this item by Council.

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

R2014-11 Resolution Accepting Bid of Bodine Communication for the Technology System, Decatur Police Department, was presented.

Councilman Pat McDaniel moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Jerry J. Dawson.

The City Manager stated the equipment currently being used by the Police Department is the property of the Law Enforcement Commission which owns and manages the Law Enforcement building. The City worked with Dewberry to design the technology system package. The bid from Bodine is within 3% of the estimated amount of what the City thought it would cost. City Manager McCrady and staff recommended approval of this item by Council.

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

R2014-12 Resolution Accepting Bid of Wiley Office Furniture for Furniture, Decatur Police Department, was presented.

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

The City Manager stated furniture and installation of the same would be provided by Wiley Office Furniture for the Decatur Police Department. The majority of the furniture currently being used is the property of the Law Enforcement Commission which owns and manages the Law Enforcement building. The City consulted with Dewberry to provide the specifications and negotiated the package. City Manager McCrady and staff recommended approval of this item by Council. Mayor McElroy stated the City Manager has been very good with regard to keeping the Council advised and involved with all aspects of the new police facility. This is a police facility our Police Department deserves to have and one of which they can be proud.

On call of the roll Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Larry W. Foster, 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 Dana M. Ray moved that Consent Calendar Items A through B be approved by Omnibus Vote and seconded by Councilman Jerry J. Dawson and on call

of the roll Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Larry W. Foster, 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, and

R2014-13 Resolution Authorizing Subrecipient Agreement FY 2014 Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations.

This being the time for Appearance of Citizens Linda Tyus, 2811 South Forest Green Drive, Decatur, Illinois addressed Council. Ms. Tyus thanked the Mayor, Council and City Manager for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Human Relations Commission. She advised she is currently the Chair of the Human Relations Commission and she has served on the commission since 2009. Ms. Tyus spoke with regard to the elimination of the Human Relations Officer position and the new process City Manager McCrady would like to implement. Ms. Tyus provided the history of the Human Relations Commission and the Human Rights Officer. The Human Rights Officer and the Human Relations Commission work together to prevent and address discrimination. Ms. Tyus stated the City Manager has put in place a process where the Commission is being asked to do the job of the Human Rights Officer. The Commission has concerns about the new process for the following reasons: they volunteer their time and they are not trained; they do not have the expertise to investigate claims, all of which are the duties of a full time Human Rights Officer. Ms. Tyus stated conversation(s) were had with the City Manager about their concerns and his reply was "to try it". Ms. Tyus respectfully stated that Human Rights issues are too important to just "try it". These issues are time sensitive, deserve a thorough investigation, can be costly and can have long term effects or a lifetime effect on an individual or institution. She stated the City owes the citizens and businesses of Decatur the best when it comes to protecting them and investigating claims of discrimination. She asked the Mayor and Council not to implement an ineffective process by placing and pushing such important work on volunteers. She asked Council to put their cards on the table as this issue is too important to ignore.

Dr. Janelle Norman requested the Mayor and Council to listen to the citizens, address the needs and react in kind. She asked what the NAACP can do to help Council understand that a full time Human Rights Officer is needed. She pointed out that all other boards and commissions have a full time staff member assigned to them. She inquired why Council thinks it is ok to fund the Municipal Band and not the position that aids victims of discrimination. She urged the Mayor and Council to reinstate the position of Human Rights Officer.

Floyd Wheeler stated he was arrested on the 6th day of February at the Mass Transit Center for loitering. He does not know why he was arrested; he was waiting on his bus. He feels authority has been misused and he would like Mayor and Council to check into the matter.

Daniel Ray Pickrel, 695 ½ East Grove Road, Decatur, Illinois, appeared before Council to promote and request the Council and City to promote rain water harvesting, gardening and the heroes in the Decatur community.

Mayor McElroy proceeded to Other Business at which time Councilman Dana M. Ray stated she would like Council and staff to consider what can be done with regard to the Human Relations Commission. In addition, she stated she wants Council and staff to diligently seek ways to keep the Human Relations Commission intact. Councilman Pat McDaniel agreed with Councilman Dana M. Ray and stated he would like all options to be considered because it is important.

Councilman Jerry J. Dawson moved to recess to study session for the Treasurer's Financial Report; seconded by Councilman Dana M. Ray and on call of the roll Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Larry W. Foster, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray, and Mayor McElroy voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

City Manager McCrady stated the report is a one month financial report because the fiscal year started January 1st. There have been tables added to the narrative portion of the report and hopefully it will make it easier to decipher whether the City has won or lost with regard to revenues and expenses on a monthly basis. The City Manager stated he will keep a close eye on the Governor's Budget address and the activities of the General Assembly. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson inquired about overtime for snow removal and keeping the streets safe. City Manager McCrady stated the City is nearing 90% of its expected overtime for snow and ice removal. More salt has been used this year than in past years. Adjustments may need to be made later in the year and the salt dome will need to be refilled which is an expense. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson inquired about filling or patching the potholes and employee overtime for that duty. City Manager McCrady advised it is not feasible to fill or patch potholes when they are filled with water. When the snow melts, the potholes come out and City crews will be out patching and filling the potholes when weather permits. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson inquired about tree limbs clean up and the disposal of them. City Manager McCrady stated residents are able to dispose of the tree limbs by coordinating with their waste hauler. Larger limbs can be disposed of by hiring a private company. The same crews that remove the limbs would be the same that remove the snow and

patch the potholes. City Manager McCrady advised the City has not contracted with anyone to perform tree limb clean up.

There being no further business, Councilman Jerry J. Dawson moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel, and on call of the roll Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Larry W. Foster, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray, and Mayor McElroy voted aye. The Mayor declared the Council meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Approved March 3, 2014
Linda Swartz
City Clerk