

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, February 3, 2014

On Monday, February 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, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe and Dana M. Ray. Councilmen Larry W. Foster and Patrick S. Laegeler were absent. Five 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 January 21, 2014, were presented. Councilman Pat McDaniel moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray and Mayor McElroy voted aye. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson 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 Mayor's recognitions.

2014-03 Ordinance Annexing Territory 3223 Rea's Ridge Court, was presented.

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

The City Manager stated the annexation before Council tonight is predicated upon a previously executed Water Service Agreement. The property is adjacent to the city limits of Decatur. The City Manager and staff recommend approval.

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

R2014-08 Resolution Accepting Bid and Authorizing Contract with Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, LLC for Oakley Sediment Basin Rehabilitation and Lake Decatur Dredging Basins 1 through 4, was presented.

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

The City Manager stated the City Council reviewed the project and bid during the study session on January 21, 2014. Great Lakes Dredge & Dock was the low bidder and the City Manager and staff recommended approval. City Manager McCrady advised the following item on the agenda is related to the financing of the dredging project and he provided an overview of this item. In addition, the City Manager spoke about the impact of this project on the local workforce. Jon Nieman, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, addressed Council with regard to the company hiring from the community's labor force. Mr. Nieman advised that representatives of Great Lakes have met with the City Manager several times and Great Lakes has committed to him and the Council to use a very high percentage of local labor. Great Lakes hopes to obtain close to 100% of the hourly employees for the earth work in the Oakley basin, 50% of employees with regard to dredging and they will hold community outreach, a job fair, put the job listings on Craig's List, the newspapers, etc. to open the employment opportunities to everyone in the City. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson inquired as to why more local labor wasn't used the last time Great Lakes operated in the City of Decatur. Mr. Nieman stated the previous owners did not have discussions or commitments with the City to hire local. Great Lakes did bring in quite a few local employees; however, there was a low local retention rate. Mr. Nieman set forth Great Lakes' plan to explore every avenue available to hire local people which will include reaching out to as many people as possible through electronic methods, job fairs, newspapers, and through a variety of different employment outreach avenues as possible, including possible engagement of the City's employment department to help Great Lakes staff as many local people as possible. Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe inquired as to the skill set required. Mr. Nieman advised in the Oakley basin heavy equipment operators will be needed; on the water, general laborers/deckhands, skilled specific booster operators, dredge operators, and dredge engineers (mechanics) will be needed. Great Lakes has located some skilled workers and does anticipate the need to bring in many of the new employees at the unskilled level and train them to become the booster operators and dredge engineers. He feels they can find or train locally crane operators. They would not hire licensed boatmen locally for this project as a Coast Guard License is required. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson inquired of Mr. Nieman if dialog has taken place with the operating engineers and if they will be considered. Mr. Nieman advised if any of the operating engineers apply, they will be considered for the jobs available. Councilman Dana M. Ray inquired as to the number of jobs that will be available. Mr. Nieman advised 20-25 equipment operators will be needed and a total of 18-19 water operation on both shifts both days and nights. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson inquired about a timeline for the project and Mr. Nieman advised silt removal should start in late

March/April, if the Council approves the Resolution and the ice that is on the lake melts. Additionally, he stated the last time they operated in Decatur they used many local welders to build the pipeline and plan to do the same this time. Great Lakes would begin hiring local welders to start building and placing the pipeline into the lake. Local welders will be hired first. He stated there will be a couple of months consisting of building and laying pipeline and then starting in May the equipment ordered for the job will start arriving. At that time, people will see activity on land and the assembling of equipment. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson asked if there will be disruptions on the lake with regard to boating when the installation of the pipeline is happening. Mr. Nieman addressed Councilman Dawson's concern and advised 1,000 - 2,000 feet of pipe will be laid and at that time that section will have a security corridor around it; once down that will be back open and the next section corded off. Only the section where the pipe is going down will be sectioned off. Councilman Dawson inquired if the subsidiary that will be doing the sediment basin work is aware of the necessity to hire from the local workforce and Mr. Nieman advised they are. Councilman Pat Mc Daniel requested clarification from the City Manager regarding the slight cost increases. The City Manager advised the rate model Council approved included for the three steps the first three years 35/30/25%, then there is an annual 2 1/2 % cost of living increase to the rate. This provides assurance to the bond investors there is revenue coming in to make the payments. Mayor McElroy invited members of the audience to ask questions or make statements relative to this particular agenda item. He requested each person give their name and address. At this time the following individuals came forward with comments:

Dr. Janelle Norman, NAACP, expressed her concern regarding diversity in the workplace and inquired of the percentage of African-Americans Great Lakes hired on during the last project and the percentage Great Lakes plans to hire on this project. Mr. Nieman advised he could not provide an answer as to the percentage of African-Americans hired during the previous project or the upcoming project, but he stated all applicants will be treated equally. Hiring, training, and promotions are done on the basis of knowledge, skills and abilities and not based on race, gender, nationality, etc.

Larry Reynolds, 34 Corman Court, Decatur, Illinois, voiced his opinion that if Great Lakes hires locals they will drain welders from the local companies and from small industries. He stated this would just move a person from one job to another.

Mike Zahn, Business Manager of Operating Engineers, Local #965, advised Council that Local #965 covers this type of work, specifically heavy equipment operators as well as dredge operators. Mr. Zahn advised Local #965 can man both jobs 100%. Mr. Zahn stated there is no guarantee that Mr. Nieman will keep his word and hire from the local workforce and unless language is in the contract between the City and Great

Lakes there is no legal recourse. Mr. Zahn asked what the Mayor, Council and City Manager will do if Mr. Nieman does not live up to his promise. The Mayor addressed Mr. Zahn's concern advising that Mr. Nieman is expected to live up to his promise and the City will be monitoring it very closely.

Dennis Kareher, 2537 East Olive Street, Decatur, Illinois, stated he has lived in Decatur all his life and he planned on staying in Decatur. He spoke of his love for the community. Mr. Greer advised he was prompted to appear and speak at this Council meeting by God. He stated there are homeless, mentally ill people, those who are at a disadvantage and living on the street and we, the citizens and leaders, are not doing anything for them; specifically, we are not doing God's work. God does not care how money is spent but wants Decatur to do His work in addition to what leaders feel is necessary. God is the supplier of all things. If we pray and do His work, God will supply Decatur with water.

Daniel Ray Pickrel, 695 ½ East Grove Road, Decatur, Illinois, stated dredging is about the lake. He stated by dredging the lake you will provide a number of jobs, but will not change the look of the city. There are a lot of people who need jobs. Many people in Decatur need new roofs. If the City would spend money on roofs, and those people would harvest the rain water to supply the gardens which in turn will feed people, this event would attract people and they will want to come to Decatur to observe the benefits rain water harvesting has on the community. Further he stated local food production may be a way to boost restaurant sales. Mr. Pickrel feels the City should put some money toward rainwater harvesting and long lasting roofs. This in turn will involve people in a process to use their land, contribute to their homes, property value and the community.

Dennis Minick, 704 West South Street, Atlanta, Illinois, Business Representative of International Union of Operating Engineers, advised Council that the International Union of Operating Engineers has members and provides training for members that live in Macon County and Decatur. They have members who have worked for Great Lakes Dredging and have extensive crane training and their operators are certified. In addition, he stated that safety is a huge factor with the Union.

John Phillips, 80 Allen Bend Drive, Decatur, Illinois, urged Council to approve the Resolution and move forward. He praised Council for the projects that are happening in the community and urged council to set goals and measurements for Great Lakes. He stated everyone is responsible for hiring local and diversely so the workforce is a representation of the community.

Rodney Wall, 1911 Midline Road, Decatur, Illinois, questioned if the money being spent includes lowering the intake of the lake. City Manager McCrady advised the City has two intakes, the normal intake and below that an emergency intake. The City Manager assured Mr. Wall and Council that the bottom of the lake will not be below the water intake as that would not be beneficial.

Robert A. Martindale, 43 Greenridge Drive, Decatur, Illinois, retired Equipment Operator, Decatur, IL, agreed with Mr. Zahn and Mr. Minnick and has worked out of Local #962 for over 42 years. All members are provided extensive training which is updated and continues each year. The Union Hall pays for the training for the qualified, expert people who have done this type of work for years. If contractors hire through the Equipment Operators locally, the contractors do not need to provide training.

The Mayor advised it is the Mayor and Council's job to make sure that as many paychecks go our local workforce - union and non-union jobs - locally. He has faith in Great Lakes that they will do what they say they are going to do. He does not like reading that unemployment in Decatur is #1 in the State. It is important that citizens know that Council has the best intentions for the entire community. The Mayor and Council worry about the unemployment rate within the community every day not just on Monday nights. The Mayor stated he doesn't care if a citizen is union, non-union, black, white or anything else; he wants the citizens of the community to work, raise their families, have quality lives and be happy to live in Decatur.

Councilman Pat McDaniel asked what legally the City can do, and suggested adding an amendment, to require periodic reports from Great Lakes. The City Manager advised that periodic reports can be made to him and he can make reports back to Council with regard to the project, based on the information that can be made available per law. Councilman Pat McDaniel advised he is in favor of the reports. Councilman Dana M. Ray stated she supports what the other council members have stated. Further, she advised that Great Lakes has given Council a promise and will be held accountable. Further, she stated she does not take lightly that \$90,000,000 is being spent and wants to see the community improved directly. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson inquired why with qualified people and prevailing wage Great Lakes would not want their services. In addition, he stated as a councilmember he is supposed to look out for the citizens of Decatur and to try to get as many people to benefit from this project. His concern is that there are so many people with the skills and experience, why would the skilled labor force not be utilized and why the two cannot or have not come together. The City Manager advised no one has said they can't come together. At this point, Great Lakes does not have a contract and is not hiring until they do get a contract. Talks with regard to the importance of this project benefiting our community began two years ago between the City Manager and Great Lakes (Mr. Nieman and Mr. Peg). City

Manager McCrady advised very frank conversations were had with regard to the diversity of our community and the unemployment in Decatur. City Manager McCrady advised he believes Great Lakes will stick to its promise and their reputation goes with this project and they will honor the commitments they made tonight. The City Manager and staff recommend approval of this project.

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

2014-04 Ordinance providing for the issuance of not to exceed \$26,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2014, of the City of Decatur, Macon County, Illinois to finance the expansion of the City's water supply by the dredging of Lake Decatur, was presented.

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

The City Manager stated the City is working with the local Raymond James office, Speer Financial and Chapman & Cutler to provide assistance with this bond issuance. If Council votes in favor of this, the City will go to market in the next couple of weeks, and will do the best to place as many of these bonds with local investors and institutions. He reminded Council that the interest rate will be higher than last time and the rate will be determined on the date of the sale.

John Phillips inquired why the City would not borrow the entire amount of \$90,000,000.00 now. The City Manager explained the bond money has to be spent within 3 years of the issuance of the bond; the second full benefit of the rate increase does not come for a couple of years and if the City borrowed \$90,000,000.00 now the City would end up front loading the debt and front loading the payment. The water pricing model that the City has does not support the City going to market for \$90,000,000.00 at this time and which would require payments to be made right away. The water pricing model does support in the out years some flexibility in cash flow if the City finds out the rate environment is not going in the right direction, the City might be able to front load some of the borrowing on those years.

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

This being the time for Appearance of Citizens and none appearing, Mayor McElroy proceeded to Other Business at which time Councilman Pat McDaniel stated that Decatur is known for being a very caring and generous community, however, during the winter months many residents and businesses fail to clear the snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of their homes and/or businesses. In the summer and fall, many

property owners and commercial yard companies continue to rake or blow yard waste from their yards into the streets. He stated his main concern was the lack of snow removal is a safety issue which forces pedestrians, including school children, to walk in the street, many on heavily traveled streets. Many times cars have a hard time negotiating the slippery street pavement, and when pedestrians are walking in the streets, this causes a major safety issue for both. He praised the street crews for their hard work in clearing the streets. Councilman McDaniel requested the Mayor and council members to consider adopting a new initiative, "Community Business and Resident Voluntary Contract for Sidewalk Upkeep of Public Sidewalks and Streets". By adopting the above, it would promote pride in the community and make the sidewalks and streets safer. City staff could include in the monthly water bills periodic updates on how businesses, community neighborhood organizations and homeowners could help maintain the sidewalks by clearing snow from them. In addition, material could include information and reminders insuring that city streets and storm sewers are not clogged with yard waste and leaves during the summer and fall seasons which will help improve the appearance of the community. Information regarding community service organizations who are willing to offer their assistance to seniors and those who are unable to shovel the snow, mow their lawns or rake their leaves could be provided. Councilman McDaniel stated he does not advocate the type of city codes that have been enacted in other communities that mandate businesses, property owners, homeowners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks within a specific period of time or be fined, but he does advocate for the public's safety and the community's appearance. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson asked the City Manager to explain the small print on the mailing citizens received from Johnson Controls. The City Manager advised it is not a free water meter. A couple of exceptions to this would be if a water meter cannot be safely installed because of plumbing lines or if someone has finished off their basement and there is not access to the water line. The City does ask that if the water meter is in the basement and there are boxes or debris that those items be moved from the water meter. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson stated in the first scenario if the line is so bad, the citizen would have to get the line replaced and asked if the City would do the work. City manager McCrady advised the citizen would have to hire a plumber to do the work. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson asked if the citizen said they did not have the money to have the work done and they don't want the new meter, what would happen. The City Manager advised eventually a new meter would have to be installed because the new meter is necessary for the City's reading automation system. He speculated with regard to the above scenario and stated the City could charge an extra fee, such as Mt. Zion did, in order for the meter to be read manually. Further he stated Mt. Zion charged a fee of \$50.00 per month to customers who would not allow the installation of the new water meter.

At 6:43 p.m., Mayor McElroy announced Council would meet in Closed Executive Session for the Purpose of a Discussion Regarding Collective Bargaining Matters. Councilman Pat McDaniel moved to recess to Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe and on call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Pat

McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray, and Mayor McElroy voted aye. Mayor McElroy declared the motion carried.

At 6:56 p.m., the regular Council Meeting was reopened.

There being no further business, Councilman Dana M. Ray moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe, and on call of the roll Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray, and Mayor McElroy voted aye. The Mayor declared the Council meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Approved February 18, 2014  
Linda Swartz  
City Clerk