

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, January 21, 2014

On Tuesday, January 21, 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, and Closed Executive Session, One Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, Illinois. Mayor Michael T. McElroy presided; together with him being Councilmen Larry W. Foster, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe and Dana M. Ray. Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson 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 December 16, 2013, were presented. Councilman Dana M. Ray moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Councilman Pat McDaniel and on call of the roll, Councilmen 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.

This being the time set aside for unfinished business and there being no unfinished business, the Mayor proceeded to New Business.

Francie Johnson, with Dove, addressed Council on behalf of Sue Lawson, President, Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations. Ms. Johnson advised of the following events: GM Square Chili Supper and games will be Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 6:00 p.m., at St. Thomas Church, the public is welcome; Park City Neighborhood organization will host their Friendship Dinner, which is a monthly fundraising event. The Friendship Dinner will be held on February 21, 2014. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m.; Jay Scott will speak on the Conceal Carry law. The cost of the dinner is \$6.00 and the public is welcome; CONO and Dove will host a candidate's forum at the Decatur Public Library on Tuesday, February 25 at 5:30 p.m. with a meet and greet with the forum at 6:00 p.m. and the public is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

R2014-02 Resolution Appropriating Motor Fuel Tax funds for traffic signal maintenance and concrete for street maintenance by municipality under the Illinois Highway Code, was presented.

Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Larry W. Foster.

The City Manager provided an overview of this item stating the City's Capital Improvement Plan includes Motor Fuel Tax allocations to reimburse the General Fund for the traffic signal maintenance operations performed by the City staff with the Public Works Department. The Illinois Department of Transportation reimburses the City for a portion of the maintenance work, materials, etc incurred for maintenance traffic signals located on State highways in the City. These reimbursements are deposited into the Motor Fuel Tax fund. The

motor fuel tax allocation has been expanded to include \$19,000.00 in motor fuel tax funds to be used to provide concrete for street maintenance work which will be performed by City staff. City crews are able to perform concrete work at a lower cost than contracting the work out.

On call of the roll Councilmen 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.

R2014-03 Resolution Accepting Bid of Bodine Communications for Installation of High Capacity Fiber Optic Cable, was presented.

Councilman Larry W. Foster moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler.

City Manager McCrady explained the City has for a number of years been working to improve communications in and between City facilities. In the past staff has brought items before Council to approve the installation of conduit when City streets have been open for water main extensions or, for example, the downtown rehabilitation. The installation of the conduit has been in anticipation of the City being able to pull fiber optic cable through the conduits and begin hooking up the City facilities. The resolution before Council authorizes Bodine Communications to upgrade the City's current wireless wide area network and to provide data communications for the future Police Department facility. Bodine was the low bidder for this project and the quote is for the purchase and installation of 144 strand fiber optic cable. The purchase and installation will provide a comprehensive digital net work for all municipal locations, and operations. It will allow for the capability to consolidate the City phone systems as well as the reliability and improvement of application performance for remote users. Funding for this purchase is included in the 2014 Police Department Budget and the remaining funds will come from the PEG Fund. Expanding the fiber optic network becomes an economic development tool for the City. The ability for current and future business to have high speed communications is an asset. The City Manager and staff recommend approval of this item. In addition, Council was assured by the City Manager and Randy Aldrich, Management Information Services Manager that 144 strands will be more than enough for the City. Councilmen Patrick S. Laegeler and Pat McDaniel expressed support of this project and the fact that it has great potential for the community.

On call of the roll Councilmen 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.

R2014-04 Resolution Authorizing City of Decatur/Harrison Management Group LLC Redevelopment Agreement, was presented.

Councilman Pat McDaniel moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe.

City Manager McCrady and Billy Tyus, Assistant City Manager and Director of Development Services shared in providing an overview of this item stating the City has been

working for some time to finalize the development for Mound Center. Currently there is a \$9.5 million spending gap for furniture in the local economy. Residents are spending money on furniture outside of the community in addition to what is currently sold inside the City. The City has reached an agreement with Harrison Management Group LLC to bring an Ashley Furniture store and other entities to the site. The space will have options for other development which could include additional retail and possibly a new restaurant. The proposed project site is currently not generating any sales tax revenue, so any of the shared taxes would come from new funds generated that the City otherwise would not be receiving.

On call of the roll Councilmen 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 G and asked if any Council member wished to have an item removed from Consent Calendar. Items A through G were approved by Omnibus Vote.

Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler moved that Consent Calendar Items A through G be approved by Omnibus Vote and seconded by Councilman Dana M. Ray and on call of the roll Councilmen 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

R2014-01 Resolution Approving Appointments to Boards and Commissions

2014-01 Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 7 – Officers and Employees Generally

2014-02 Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 6 – City Council

R2014-05 Resolution Accepting Bid of Steve's Trucking, for Demolition of Property Located at 240 N. College

R2014-06 Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Decatur City Taxi & Delivery, Inc. for the Transit System's "Operation Uplift"

R2014-07 Resolution Authorizing Second Amendment to Contract of Sale with Harrison Management Group, LLC for Property Located at Mound Center.

This being the time for Appearance of Citizens Janelle Norman addressed Council advising them she and the NAACP are concerned about the possible elimination of the Human Rights Officer position. They feel it would be a grave injustice and damage the community if this position is eliminated. She inquired how the City can ignore its own ordinance which is set forth in Chapter 28 of the City Code. Gerald Merrick, 609 East William Street, Decatur, Illinois, recommended the City obtain a larger cable optical system because of the enhancements of the Park District, water district, employees of the City and departure of Decatur and Macon County, with the water and business growth and expansion of companies, he support the Human Relations position; Gloria Cole, citizen, concerns about the human relations position eliminated.

She is a retired teacher and she knows many disabled people who might need assistance if they are discriminated in housing and employment, they don't have an advocate and the position belongs to the community and is needed. She asked them to reconsider the elimination. Larry Altenbaumer, interim President of EDC and member of Grow Decatur, advised Grow Decatur identified 8 imperatives that are important to the progress of the community, and one is the community's water supply. From both EDC and Grow Decatur advised Council the City's water supply must be an absolute high priority.

Mayor McElroy proceeded to Other Business and spoke on the possible elimination of the Human Rights Officer position. Mayor McElroy praised Mark Barthelemy for being an exemplary employee. He indicated the City is hard pressed to find a person who can do the job as well as Mark Barthelemy and the City does not want to settle for anything less. The Mayor expressed concerns with regard to finding a quality person with Mark's investigative skills and professionalism. The elimination of the position has been discussed, but no decision has been made. The reason the Human Rights Officer job has been discussed is because Mark is retiring and the subject matter had to be discussed.

Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler inquired about angle parking on Franklin Street. The City Manager advised he and staff had advocated for angle parking on Franklin Street. However, since the project is being funded with the Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, and the Illinois Department of Transportation will not approve plans with angle parking along Franklin Street, there will not be angle parking on Franklin Street.

Councilman Pat McDaniel advised grain trucks are still going downtown. City Manager McCrady advised the Police Department has written citations for those violators and will continue to enforce the law.

Councilman Pat McDaniel moved to recess to study session for the Treasurer's Financial Report and Oakley Sediment Basin Rehabilitation and Dredging Basins 1 through 4 City Project W1314; seconded by Councilman Larry W. Foster and on call of the roll Councilmen 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.

The Treasurer's Financial Report was the first item Gregg Zientara, Finance Director, addressed advising the City's financial position remains stable at the present. Factors that impact the City's financial position are changes in the local economy and distribution of taxes from the State that the City has no control over. The City's cash and investment balance is \$33.2 million and the General Fund Cash position is \$2.4 million, which includes \$250,000.00 of inter-fund cash advance to the regular fund. The City is cautious and will continue to track the revenue as it was down 5-7% last year. The departments have done a good job with keeping spending down.

Councilman Pat McDaniel inquired about the Farm Progress Show and the hotel/motel tax revenue. Gregg Zientara and City Manager McCrady advised the Farm Progress Show performed as expected, however, because of the soft economy throughout the year, the overall annual impact was not what has been seen in previous years.

The subject of dredging was the next item to be discussed during the study session. City Manager McCrady provided a brief history on the City's dredging of Lake Decatur and advised there has been a desire for large scale dredging of Lake Decatur. Dredging in two basins has been completed. Further, he advised there are areas of the lake that have never been dredged since the lake was built in 1923. The City Manager and staff advocate all four basins of the lake be dredged. He advised the cost is per cubic yard of dredge material that will be removed and this is the most efficient way to dredge the lake. There are fixed costs related to dredging of the lake whether one basin is dredged or four basins are dredged. All four basins need to be dredged. The City can afford spending \$89,000 million without the need to raise additional water rates. This will be the biggest project on Lake Decatur since it was built. Mayor McElroy did inquire if any councilmember was in favor of dredging just one or two basins. No councilmember(s) indicated they were in favor of dredging just one or two basins. Keith Alexander, Director of Water Management, addressed council and provided exhibits which were provided in the Council packet. He stated there are four basins to be dredged; two basins have previously been dredged. Not all of basin 1 needs to be dredged because in some areas it is already low enough and Mr. Alexander advised water flows from high points to low points. After the dredging, all of the water from Basins 4, 3, 2, 1 will flow, if dredged as proposed, to the South Water Treatment Plant in- tanks. This is where the City will get the maximum water supply benefit from the project. The City will gain 30% of the water storage capacity and an additional 52 days of water supply. The City Manager advised representatives from Chastain & Associates and representatives from Great Lakes were available for questions. Councilman Dana M. Ray asked if the City will have to be dredge again. Mr. Alexander advised with the placement of sediment traps, dredging will not be needed. The sediment traps will be in place and will need to be cleaned every 5 -10 years, short lived and inexpensive to clean out the sediment traps. Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler inquired about the where the sediment is being placed. Mr. Alexander explained that the Oakley Sediment Basin is where the sediment from the lake will be put. This year the Macon County Board approved another 10 year Special Use Permit for the City to operate this as a sediment basin and explained the history and possible future uses of the site. Mr. Alexander advised the Macon County Board requires all special use permits have a time limit. The Macon County Board gave us the maximum time limit. The Macon County Board and Oakley Township Board recognize the huge economic importance of this project. They did advise they appreciated the Council's efforts to continue the dredging project. Mr. Alexander also advised the Oakley Sediment Basin will have the capacity to handle the dredge material. Mayor McElroy stated that this \$90 million project tells people in the area that the City of Decatur is serious about wanting their business. He praised those who worked on this project, city staff, local contractors, etc. Councilman Larry W. Foster advised he is impressed with the previous work performed by Great Lakes and asked Jon Nieman to provide some background information with regard to Great Lakes. John Nieman, Vice-President of Rivers and Lakes Division, addressed council advising that Great Lakes is an Illinois company located in Oakbrook, Illinois. His specialty is in lakes and rivers and operates out of St. Louis. Great Lakes is the largest dredging company in the United States, with operations in several countries around the world. Great Lakes is a 124 years old company that does \$700,000 million a year in revenue his division is the largest lake dredgers in the country. Councilman Pat McDaniel expressed his support for this project. Councilman Larry W. Foster advised the future

growth of our community is tied to water supply and the project sends a strong message to employers and future employers. In addition, he stated this is a significant vote and he supports dredging all four basins. Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler stated this project stands on its own from an economic stand point as well as a quality of life aspect, which is a huge bonus. Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe stated water is the life blood of our community and by did the right thing by keeping Asian Carp out. A good quality life supply is necessary and she fully supports dredging all four basins. Councilman Dana M. Ray advised the driving force for her was listening to Larry Altenbaumer from the Economic Development Corporation talk about companies inquiring about the community's water supply. She further stated she is glad the issue is being addressed and resolved. The City Manager advised without the vote by Council for the water pricing adjustment, this project would not be moving forward. The City has sufficient revenue to pay the debt service on the bonds; still have funds to do the preventative maintenance on the water system and work will be performed as well as the supplemental water sources above and beyond dredging. This model is performing the way expected and the city has some flexibility in the out years of this model because rates are attractive for borrowing. The City will be able to front load some of the borrowing and still pay off the debt. Councilman Jerry W. Dawson, although absent from this meeting, asked the Mayor to inquire about the local labor being used for the project. Jon Nieman explained that the last time Great Lakes performed dredging for the City they hired local people and they have already started contacting them to bring them back. A few continued with Great Lakes after the job was completed in Decatur. Some of the people hired will have to start at the bottom and be trained, but most of the positions are skilled positions with specific training. Great Lakes made a commitment to the City that they would hire as many local people as possible, and once a person is hired and trained, that person will move up, and they will hire another person. Safety is an important factor with Great Lakes and it is a high risk occupation. Mayor expressed the City would like to keep as many people working here as possible and it is very important to the City. Jon Nieman advised Great Lakes also likes to buy local as much as they can.

At 6:57 p.m., Mayor McElroy announced Council would meet in Closed Executive Session for the Purpose of a Discussion Regarding Collective Bargaining Matters and Pending or Threatened Litigation Affecting or On Behalf of the City. Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler moved to recess to Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe and on call of the roll, Councilmen Larry W. Foster, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray, and Mayor McElroy voted aye. Mayor McElroy declared the motion carried.

At 7:19 p.m., the regular Council Meeting was reopened.

There being no further business, Councilman Pat McDaniel moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilman Larry W. Foster, and on call of the roll Councilmen 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 7:19 p.m.

Approved February 3, 2014

Linda Swartz
City Clerk