

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, November 17, 2014

On Monday, November 17, 2014, the City Council of the City of Decatur, Illinois, met in Regular Meeting, Study Session and Closed Executive 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 November 3, 2014, were presented. Councilman Jerry J. Dawson moved the minutes be approved as written; 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.

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 or Mayor's recognitions. Mayor McElroy announced the CONO presentation. Francie Johnson provided an overview of events on behalf of Sue Lawson who was unable to attend the meeting. In the month of December:

GM Square will host a White Elephant/Bingo Christmas party

December 2nd at 6 p.m.;

CONO's Christmas Celebration will be held December 9th at 6 p.m.;

Park City Neighborhood will have a food collection event on

December 1 and 2nd; will host an Angel Tree event on December

13th; and the Christmas decorating contest will be judged December

19th.

Ms. Johnson also reported in October twenty-eight (28) people participated in a ceramics painting class. Some of the children who participated were in attendance and introduced themselves as well as showed their artwork to the Council members and Mayor McElroy. Ms. Johnson invited the Mayor and Council to attend the CONO Christmas party.

R2014-132 Resolution Authorizing Agreement with Chastain & Associates LLC to Provide Preliminary Drainage Design Services for the Baltimore Road Reconstruction Project, City Project 2014-20, was presented.

Councilman Julie Moore-Wolfe moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler. 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.

R2014-133 Resolution to Amend Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation to Revise the Estimated Ending Date for Completion for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, Project TE-00D7 (40), Job P-97-011-11, was presented.

Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Dana M. Ray. 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.

R2014-134 Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for Federal Participation with Massie Massie & Associates for Decatur Corridor Monument Installation Project, Project No. TE-00D7(040), was presented.

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

R2014-135 Resolution Authorizing Real Estate Contract for Property Located in the 200-400 Blocks of East King Street and East Central Avenue in the Wabash Crossing Redevelopment Area, was presented.

Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler moved the Resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman Larry W. Foster. Resident Sherry Procaroine voiced her disapproval of the City taking grants. On call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Larry W. Foster, Patrick S. Laegeler, Pat McDaniel, Julie Moore-Wolfe, and Mayor McElroy voted aye. Councilman Dana M. Ray abstained because she is employed by the Community Health Improvement Center. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

2014-55 Ordinance Amending City Code, Chapter 34 - Traffic, Chapter 73 - Offenses, was presented.

Councilman Jerry J. Dawson moved the Ordinance do pass; seconded by Councilman Dana M. Ray. Councilman Pat McDaniel voiced his opposition stating he felt the removal of the vehicle was too excessive. On call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry J. Dawson, Larry W. Foster, Patrick S. Laegeler, Julie Moore-Wolfe, Dana M. Ray and Mayor McElroy voted aye. Councilman Pat McDaniel voted nay. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

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

Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler moved that Consent Calendar Items A through F be approved by Omnibus Vote and 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 motion carried.

Receiving and Filing Minutes of City Boards and Commissions;

R2014-136 Resolution Approving Appointments to City Boards and Commissions;

R2014-137 Resolution Authorizing Action Regarding Unsafe Structures;

2014-56 Ordinance Authorizing the Installation of Stop Signs at the Intersection of East Hickory Street and North Charles Street Facing North Charles Street;

2014-57 Ordinance Authorizing the Installation of Stop Signs at the Intersection of South 21st Street and East Whitmer; and

2014-58 Ordinance Establishing Stop Intersection at 21st Street and East Moore Street.

This being the time for Appearance of Citizens the following citizens appeared: Deangelo Wheeler thanked the Mayor and Council for their review and amendments to Chapters 34 and 73 of the City Code. John Phillips complimented the Council and City Manager for their watchful eye on the budget in recent years and for not raising taxes. He expressed concern for the future relative to tax revenue and encouraged the Council not to be afraid to raise taxes minimally as necessary. David Burkham, President and CEO of the Decatur Ambulance Service, addressed the Council in opposition of the City venturing into the ambulance service business. Randy Hauser, Fire Chief of Niantic, voiced concern regarding the effect of the City using fire fighters to answer ambulance calls. This could result in the closing of the Decatur Ambulance Service business. Also, he voiced concern with regard to the effect on the surrounding communities which currently rely on the Decatur Ambulance Service. Mayor McElroy addressed these concerns stating that the issue has not been brought before Council. He reassured members of the audience that the Council will take into consideration the comments presented tonight. Sherry Procaroine thanked the Council for the manner in which they reviewed and amended the City Code.

Mayor McElroy proceeded to Other Business. Councilman Pat McDaniel inquired if the City Manager had researched any grants for obtaining body cameras for the Police Department. City Manager McCrady replied that he had not. He also stated the Police Department is well equipped with cameras/microphones and the laws regarding body cameras are too new.

Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler moved to recess to study session for the Monthly Treasurer's Report, 2015 Tax Levy Review and 2015 Budget Review; 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.

City Manager McCrady presented the 2014 Tax Levy, 2015 Budget, as well as the Treasurer's Financial Report. The 1st quarter revenue was low but revenue was up with the 2nd & 3rd quarters. Unemployment is down with over 1,000 new jobs. Favorable economic development news included Archer Daniels Midland Company, Akorn Pharmaceuticals, Fuyao Glass of China, Union Iron, County Market and others. He provided an overview of the significant infrastructure projects that have been completed, are near completion and are beginning. Mr. McCrady stated, financially the City will be stronger in 2015 with an expectation of a small surplus. The budget for 2015 includes work on multiple projects including replacing the fire pumper and several police patrol vehicles. Currently there are 498 full time City staff employees with an increase of three positions. The revenue projection is \$6.2 million in the General Operating fund. The budget reflects a \$1.5 million deficit due to what is known as the phantom 27th payroll; the last pay period ends on the last day of the year. It will not affect the financial reports. There will be no deduction in staff. City Manager McCrady reviewed the property tax levy indicating a 1% decline in overall property value which is less than past years and recommended the levy stay flat, with an explanation of the levy and pensions. While the pensions are not currently covered by the levy, if property

values rise and the levy remains the same, the burden of covering pensions can be reduced in the General Operating fund. There are several priorities for fiscal year 2015 including the upcoming/ongoing projects and the potential for the Fire Department to operate a single EMS unit. The operation of a single EMS unit is in the early investigative stage. There are a number of challenges for 2015 including demolition of structures, street repairs and additional equipment replacement. Mayor McElroy asked for comments from residents at which time Sherry Procaroine commented she would like to hear more regarding the issue of the EMS unit/Fire Department. She would like to make sure the Fire Department is fully funded with what is necessary to perform the job of a Fire Department. If more equipment is required for the Fire Department to perform EMS duties, that would require more money and a larger budget for the Fire Department. Private business such as the Decatur Ambulance service which has the equipment and is currently servicing communities should continue. Eric Yutzy, paramedic in Decatur, stated he did not understand the concept of putting an ambulance service in a fire station. He also commented on how fortunate the City is to have a number of experienced paramedics in Decatur.

Mr. McCrady stated the proposed budget could be ready for Council approval at the next meeting, December 1st if they preferred. There was a consensus of Council members that they would be ready to vote on the budget at the December 1st meeting. Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler informed Council he will not be in attendance at the December 1st meeting and he is comfortable with the review of the budget.

Councilman Larry W. Foster moved to recess to 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; 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. Council went into closed executive session at 6:32 p.m.

There being no further business, Councilman Pat McDaniel moved the regular Council meeting be adjourned; 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 Council meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Approved December 1, 2014
Cheryl Quandt
Deputy City Clerk