

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, March 6, 2017

On Monday, March 6, 2017, the City Council of the City of Decatur, Illinois, met in Regular Meeting at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, One Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, Illinois.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe presided, together with her being Councilmen Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel and Dana Ray. Seven members present. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared a quorum present.

City Manager Tim Gleason attended the meeting as well.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe requested to move Proclamations and Recognitions before Appearance of Citizens, if there were no objections because some of the individuals being recognized had other obligations. All were in favor by voicing no objections.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe announced Council was honoring the St. Teresa Bulldog football team. Councilman Jerry Dawson a former St. Teresa football team member, stated it was a special time for him to watch the football team this year and he was proud of each and every team member. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe asked the CEO of St. Teresa High School Dr. Ken Hendriksen, Head Football Coach Mark Ramsey and Councilman Jerry Dawson to join her at the podium to give the football team members Stephen Decatur medallions. Dr. Ken Hendriksen asked Trainer Robert Hill and Assistant Coach Rusty Ramsey to join them at the podium to present the medallions to the team members.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe asked Councilman Jerry Dawson to read the Proclamation proclaiming March 9, 2017 as Chicago Cubs Day in Decatur, Illinois, in honor of the Cubs winning the World Championship and bringing the World Series trophy to Decatur, Illinois.

This being the time for Appearance of Citizens, the following citizen appeared:

Barry Zarzyczny, representing the Decatur Landlord's Association, thought Council was treating the symptoms and not the cause in regards to the houses on the demolition list. He asked Council to take a look at a tenant ordinance to hold tenants accountable for trashing these properties. He asked Council to be a leader and to set a standard.

The minutes of the February 21, 2017 City Council meeting were presented. Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Councilwoman Dana Ray, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

This being the time set aside for Unfinished Business and there being none, Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe called for New Business.

R2017-28 Resolution Authorizing Public Displays to Honor Vietnam Veterans, was presented.

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

Councilman Pat McDaniel thanked the committee members that had set this up. This is the fifth year for recognizing the Vietnam veterans.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe and Councilman Jerry Dawson thanked Councilman Pat McDaniel for his service as a Vietnam veteran and all the veterans in the area.

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

R2017-29 Resolution Accepting the Bid and Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with Burdick Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc. for 2017 Annual Water Main Replacement Project, City Project 2017-10, was presented.

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

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

R2017-30 Resolution Accepting the Bid and Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with Burdick Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc. for the Starr Crest & Shore Oak Pump Stations & Green Oak Force Main Replacements Project, City Project 2016-02, was presented.

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

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

R2017-31 Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Bainbridge, Gee, Milanski & Associates, Inc. to Provide Construction Engineering and Resident Inspections Services for Starr Crest & Shore Oak Pump Stations & Green Oak Force Main Replacements Project, City Project 2016-02, was presented.

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

Councilman Chris Funk stated he would abstain from the vote because of a business relationship with BGM.

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Councilman Chris Funk abstained. Six ayes and one abstention. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe called for Other Business:

Councilman Pat McDaniel encouraged Mr. Zarzyczny and members of the Local Landlord's Association to canvass the country to see if there is some type of a City tenant ordinance the City Council could look at.

With no other business, Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe called to Recess to a Study Session for an Update on 2017 Neighborhood Redevelopment Efforts.

Councilwoman Dana Ray moved to recess to Study Session; seconded by Councilman Jerry Dawson.

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

City Manager Tim Gleason gave an update on the 2017 neighborhood revitalization efforts. He shared the City has been taking a long term approach to an overwhelming challenge and the possibility of financing up to \$1 million for demolition and programs. Staff has identified a demo list of approximately 120 properties and each property is costing the City approximately \$15,000.00 for demolition per property, which doesn't include the staff time dealing with demo properties. The City has several opportunities with knowing we have a revenue stream to address this challenge we have. The City will be doing demos and setting up programs in 2017. Councilman Pat McDaniel requested to see any programs come before Council in Study Session. City Manager Tim Gleason shared the City has local community groups interested in some of the properties that could be revitalized and turned in to owner occupied or have a desire to expand. Another opportunity is interested groups want to get in at a cost prior to demo to strip some of the homes of anything of value. Councilman Jerry Dawson asked if the City ever recoups the costs on these homes. City Manager Tim Gleason stated that would be rare; these homes are usually privately owned. Councilman Jerry Dawson would like to try and save the homes that could be saved as opposed to knocking them down. Councilwoman Lisa Gregory stated this has to be part of a much larger comprehensive plan. The City is now left with a school building. She requested the City connect with the school board and let them know when they have buildings to sell, the City would like them to pick an entity to be responsible with the property so it doesn't end up on the taxpayers shoulders. Councilman Pat McDaniel stated land bank authority has to

be part of the comprehensive program. Councilwoman Dana Ray encouraged City staff to have out-of-the box thinking even with partnering with some of the labor forces. Work with Decatur Vocational Center to do some training to save some houses that can be saved and do some job skill training. Use some of the areas for gardening which could benefit the City's food banks. Councilman Bill Faber requested to have one or two people on staff that all they work on is neighborhood redevelopment. Councilman Chris Funk shared he liked the idea of taking down homes in clusters where the City would have a maximum impact. City Manager Tim Gleason shared they are trying to maximize the tax dollar investment and trying to be very strategic because the City is stewards of the tax payer's dollars.

Councilman Pat McDaniel moved the regular Council meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilwoman Dana Ray. Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Jerry Dawson, Bill Faber, Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the Council meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Approved March 20, 2017
Debra G. Bright
City Clerk