

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, March 20, 2017

On Monday, March 20, 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 Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray and Jerry Dawson. Councilman Bill Faber was absent. Six members present and one member absent. 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.

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

John Phillips stated Aaron Freeman, the President of U-Haul Company in Illinois, reached out to him and asked him for help. His company has the desire to have their plan reconsidered for the Northgate Mall area. Mr. Phillips gave Council members a copy of a letter Mr. Freeman is planning to send to the Herald & Review editor regarding this matter.

Jacob Jenkins, representing the Black Chambers of Commerce of Illinois and the Greater Decatur Black Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding inner City neighborhoods that need help. Mr. Jenkins requested Council allocate funds and resources to revitalize the neighborhoods.

Holly Mowry is a landlord in Decatur and stated she found eight properties between 752 West Macon and 1023 West Macon that are boarded up and are beautiful old houses. She stated the City should give families the houses and resources to fix up the houses. Ms. Mowry gave Council a list of the eight houses on West Macon Street.

Barry Zarzyczny, representing the Decatur Landlord's Association, stated he would like to go through the demo properties and make recommendations.

The minutes of the March 6, 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 Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson 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.

Proclamations and Recognitions:

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe asked John's Hill Magnet School Eighth Grade Boys Basketball Head Coach Jason Flournoy to the podium to say a few words about the winning boys' basketball team. Head Coach Jason Flournoy shared that the boys' basketball team won the State's Championship this year; they finished 24-0. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe, Head Coach Jason Flournoy and Assistant Coach Wallace Green presented the basketball team members with Stephen Decatur Medallions. Captains R.J. Walker and Ryan Bartley thanked the community, fans, parents, and students for their support.

Chief Jim Getz recognized retiring Auxiliary Police Captain Rodney Gant for his 28 year of voluntary service, over 7,000 hours of volunteer duty, and over 260 events worked. Captain Rodney Gant thanked the Auxiliary Officers for their dedication and commitment to the Decatur Police Department and community. He thanked his family for their support throughout the years. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition and accepted it on behalf of the entire Auxiliary Unit.

Brandon Miller representing the Boys and Girls Club asked Jayla Norman to read the Proclamation proclaiming March 27 – March 31, 2017, as Boys and Girls Club Week in Decatur, Illinois.

City Manager Tim Gleason shared that Fire Chief Jeff Abbott informed him that retired Decatur Fire Chief Phil Workman passed away this past Saturday.

City Manager Tim Gleason shared that Fire Chief Jeff Abbott informed him the City received their Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating back. The ISO evaluates Fire Departments in the United States. Based on the evaluation they assign a rating for each department from numbers one to ten with number one being the best. The Fire Department was rated an ISO rating of number two, which puts the Fire Department in the top three percent (3%) of 49,000 Fire Departments that are currently rated. City Manager Tim Gleason and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe congratulated Chief Abbott and his team on the excellent rating.

Resolution Authorizing Contract Pay and Benefits – AFSCME Local 268 and Decatur Public Library, was presented.

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

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe asked Librarian Rick Meyer to come to the podium to answer Council's questions.

Councilman Jerry Dawson had concerns about the ten year contract and free health care for the full time employees. Councilman Jerry Dawson asked Librarian Rick Meyer about the volatility of the health care market, if he thought it was wise to promise free health care for ten years. Librarian Rick Meyer stated the current contract also provides for individual coverage but not for family coverage. He stated it would save them less than \$40,000 over the course of the ten year contract. It was a way to get this contract ratified and the Library Board believes it is a good deal. It got them ten years with an average salary increase of one and a half percent (1.5%)

per year. Councilman Jerry Dawson asked if residency requirements were discussed. Librarian Rick Meyer stated all their AFSCME members live in Decatur and it was not discussed this time around.

Councilwoman Dana Ray asked how they derived that they were going to save money over the next ten years when health care is unpredictable at this moment. Librarian Rick Meyer explained this is not about how much health care premiums are going to cost, this is about how much the employee is being asked to pay. Councilwoman Dana Ray shared she didn't feel comfortable committing to a pay increase each year over the ten year contract.

Councilman Chris Funk stated the Library contract had come to Council for ratification because they approve the levy. He asked Corporation Counsel Wendy Morthland if the contract statutorily requires Council to approve and what happens if they don't. Corporation Counsel Wendy Morthland explained that Council is actually a co-employer. Council has to approve the contract. Councilman Chris Funk was concerned about locking in a cost structure over a long period of time when there is so much flux in the Library business.

John Phillips stated the ten year contract was his doing.

Councilman Chris Funk asked for clarification of the family share employee Library cost. Librarian Rick Meyer stated that the Library pays \$450 for family coverage. Councilman Chris Funk stated his concern was to lock in a cost structure to a business that is dynamic.

Councilwoman Dana Ray requested a synopsis of what changed from the previous contract and to this contract.

Councilwoman Lisa Gregory requested a walk through and a little history about how we got from the beginning to here. Councilwoman Lisa Gregory asked if the Library Board decides to give a pay increase beyond the one and a half percent (1.5%) does that pay increase transcend to all employees represented by this contract. John Phillips stated it could depending on how it was done. If we granted a general pay increase of three percent (3%) to all non-represented employees, we would be obligated to bring that through to the bargaining group. Librarian Rick Meyer shared some of the changes to the contract with Council.

Councilman Pat McDaniel moved to table the motion; seconded by Councilwoman Dana Ray.

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

R2017-32 Resolution to Appropriate Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Traffic Signal Maintenance and Street Maintenance by Municipality, was presented.

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

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

R2017-33 Resolution to Appropriate Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Restoration of Streets and Highways by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code, City Project 2017-08, was presented.

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

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

R2017-34 Resolution Accepting the Bid and Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with Browning Chapman, LLC, for Parking Garages B & C Structural Improvements, City Project 2015-03, was presented.

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

Councilman Chris Funk asked what the term of the lease on Garage B was. City Manager Tim Gleason explained it was part of the agreement to bring ADM downtown and he is exploring the terms. It is a long term lease. Councilman Chris Funk asked what the City expected to pay as a result of an obligation to maintain the garage and the material says there is no identified funding for it. City Manager Tim Gleason shared that staff informed him the parking deck was the deal maker on the total deal.

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

2017-12 Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 52, Sections 4, 7, 8, was presented.

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

City Manager Tim Gleason stated that staff has received requests to allow certain liquor licenses class holders to cater events off premise.

Councilman Chris Funk asked on the Class O liquor license what was the difference between a brewer and a brew pub. Corporation Counsel Wendy Morthland explained when Class O was originally enacted by City Council the State's definition was much narrower and as that industry has expanded the State is expanding their definitions to do with manufacturing. This is an attempt to make the definition all encompassing.

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

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe called for Consent Calendar Items A through D and asked if any Council member wished to have an item removed from Consent Calendar. The Clerk read Items A - D:

- A. Receiving and Filing of Minutes of Boards and Commissions
- B. R2017-35 Resolution Approving Appointment – Decatur Sister Cities
- C. Receiving and Filing Official Zoning Map
- D. R2017-36 Resolution Authorizing Execution of Quitclaim Deed for Property Located at 1059 W. Macon Street.

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved Items A through D be approved by Omnibus Vote; seconded by Councilwoman Dana Ray, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the motion carried.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe called for Other Business. With no other business, Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe called to Recess to a Study Session for the Treasurer's Financial Report.

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

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

Finance Director Gregg Zientara presented the February 2017 Treasurer's Financial Report.

Councilman Jerry Dawson moved the regular Council meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilwoman Dana Ray. Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Chris Funk, Lisa Gregory, Pat McDaniel, Dana Ray, Jerry Dawson and Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe voted aye. Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe declared the Council meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Approved April 3, 2017
Debra G. Bright
City Clerk