

## **Village of Decatur Regular Council Meeting October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

Village Council President Wickett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call taken: Trustee Richardson, Trustee Mead, Trustee Gunther, Trustee Stull, Trustee Heflin, President Pro-Tem Elwaer, and President Wickett present. Chief of Police Dahlquist, Attorney Matthew Cooper, and 20 visitors were also present.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Trustee Stull makes a motion to accept the agenda as amended to include Approval of Distribution of Draft Plan for Southwest Michigan Planning Commission under Ongoing Business, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

Trustee Mead makes a motion to accept the September meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Heflin. All in favor, motion carries.

Trustee Richardson makes a motion to accept the bills as presented totaling \$128,670.24, seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.

### **Public Participation:**

James Abshagen expresses concern over School St. property. He indicates that he feels no one should've been allowed inside building following the Village taking possession due to liability concerns. President Wickett clarifies that Village does have liability coverage, and that Joel Chapman and Mike Siver were allowed in the building to remove their property, under the supervision of the PD, in an effort to reduce required cleanup and costs to Village. VM Mitchell further clarifies equipment removed was not property of Village and would have no value to the Village. VM Mitchell further clarifies that he verified liability insurance with Meadowbrook Liability.

Rosemary Stull expresses concern over Mike Siver being in Edgar Bergan building again today. She also expresses concern over the fact that School Street property has cost the Village thousands of dollars, and emphasizes the impact she feels it has on those with fixed incomes. She indicates that they had 3 months during the redemption period to remove property and she feels that they should not have been given any extra time. Rosemary states that she personally believes that VM Mitchell must ensure focus is on Village matters and ensure campaign does not take precedence. She also states that cars seem to be speeding and not stopping at stop signs along St. Mary's Street and would like the issue to be addressed.

Charlene Jackson asks about progress made on pavers coming up along sidewalk on Phelps St. VM Mitchell explains that some of the issues were addressed earlier in the day and more work will be completed on any remaining pavers that need attention by the end of next week.

Harvey Beute expresses concern over cars speeding on School St.

Jill Hemenway indicates that between 4PM and 5PM one of the political signs she had placed in her yard was removed by someone. She also expresses displeasure over situation with School St. property and that Mike Siver was in building again today. VM Mitchell clarifies that Mike was allowed to remove an organ that would have otherwise required use of DPW employees to remove. VM Mitchell further clarifies that he is handling a difficult situation in the best manner that he can, and reiterates that no Village property was in the building.

### **Communication:**

Thank you card was received from City of Bangor for the DPW employees that the Village sent to help assist with cleanup efforts from the Tornado that occurred in late August.

A letter of appreciation was received from Larry and Edna Ralston for the tree trimming efforts completed by the Village.

**Reports:**

Village Attorney Report-No further questions.

Financial Reports-No further questions.

Clerk Report- No further questions.

Chief of Police Report-Chief Dahlquist reports that he received letter of support for Ted Riggs and his efforts in helping heart attack victim. Chief Dahlquist also indicates Ted is starting full-time with Decatur on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Arturo Hernandez will be leaving department for position at Eau Claire. Chief Dahlquist also commended Officer's Cruzen and Delobel for learning roles very quickly. Both will be attending Radar School within the next 2 weeks. Also, he has spoken with candidate finishing the GR Police Academy. He indicates that he expects to have full police force in place by October 27<sup>th</sup>. He also mentions that in the past month they have made 40 business merchant contacts and 29 field contacts.

DPW Report-Foreman Ebeling not present, VM Mitchell to present report and answer questions to best of his ability. President Pro-Tem Elwaer asks about drainage issue regarding Cindy Pachner's home, which had been discussed at previous meeting. Cindy indicates that Jimmy had stopped over to discuss issue with her, and gas line would interfere with adding catch basin. Foreman Ebeling proposed utilizing stone, but Cindy is not certain whether they would want to address it in that manner.

Village Manager Report-VM Mitchell reports Chief Dahlquist and himself went to 100 S. Phelps St. to determine blight instances to assist with possible grant for work planned to expand Final Gravity Brewing Co.

**Ongoing Business:**

A. Amendment to Ordinance 190 (Anti-Blight) Amendment is proposed. Sections 3 and 4 are proposed to be amended to reduce wait time on future blight issues and impose higher fee structure. Motion is made for roll call vote for amendment as proposed by Trustee Gunther, seconded by President Pro-Tem Elwaer. All in favor, motion carries.

B. Proposal to purchase well pump pursuant to recommendation from Wood Choi from DEQ. 3 bids are presented. Item tabled to November meeting due to need for further clarification from DPW Foreman Ebeling.

C. Proposal for cleaning of well #4 and maintenance on well #2 to be performed by Peerless Midwest. Total estimated to be \$26,500 to \$32,500 depending on condition of pump. Recommendation to approve Peerless Midwest to complete work. Motion made by Trustee Richardson to approve Peerless Midwest to complete work as outlined, seconded by Trustee Heflin. All in favor, motion carries.

D. Proposal to allow VM to setup structure to have new building inspector, Tony Cirino, perform Rental inspections and to reset prices in Ordinance Amendment to be presented at next meeting. Motion to approve made by Trustee Richardson, seconded by Trustee Heflin. All in favor, motion carries. Amendment to Rental Ordinance to be presented at November meeting.

E. Proposal to create School St. Property Committee comprised of 2 Council members and 2 residents of community with Village Manager to help make decision on property's future and to allow VM to manage property to keep it from going into disrepair. 2 options are presented regarding heating system. One option is to get boiler system up and running and to heat building to minimum of 45 degrees throughout winter. Other option is to winterize boiler system and keep heat turned off. Motion is made by Trustee Mead to winterize boiler system and setup town hall meeting to help determine future of property, seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.

F. Proposal to authorize Village to allow for Trick-or-Treating hours on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30PM to 7:00PM. Motion made by Trustee Richardson, seconded by Trustee Gunther. All in favor, motion carries.

G. Proposal to approve Distribution of Draft Plan of Decatur-Hamilton Master Plan for Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. This opens 63-day comment period, after which council will determine if plan is to be accepted. Motion made to approve Distribution of Draft Plan by Trustee Richardson, seconded by Trustee Mead. All in favor, motion carries.

**New Business:**

A. Proposal to allow VM to create document showing Village's approval for "Girls on the Run" event to be held in May of 2017, which is estimated to have 1,000 to 1,500 participants. Final route will be presented at future council meeting. Motion to allow creation of document to show Village's willingness to host event and offer PD assistance with traffic made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

B. Proposal to approve use of Village Police Officers and DPW workers to assist with Raider Stomp Race in 2017. Race likely to be held on Friday evening instead of Saturday morning to allow greater participation. Motion to approve made by Trustee Mead, seconded by President Pro-Tem Elwaer. All in favor, motion carries.

**Public Participation:**

Mike Makay makes presentation regarding his candidacy for Judge.

James Abshagen raises possibility of utilizing jail crew for sidewalk trimming and future clean out of School St. Property. Also, makes comments that stricter blight ordinance is better for Village. He also states that whole School District should be responsible for issue with School St. property. He also makes comment that Village Council is elected to make these type of decisions rather than running special elections.

**Council Comment:**

President Pro-Tem Elwaer states that all municipalities in School District should have responsibility to address School St. property issue. All should work together to address this issue as a community.

Trustee Richardson commends Chief Dahlquist on progress/performance in PD Department. Trustee Gunther and Trustee Heflin also commend Chief Dahlquist.

**Adjournment:**

President Pro-Tem Elwaer makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Mead. All in favor, motion carries at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Newton, Village Clerk/Treasurer