

OFFICIAL MINUTES - VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 3, 2015

The August 3, 2015 meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan was called to order by President Carl Wickett at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call taken with Patrick Richardson, Robert Mead Jr., Tom Stull, Norma Strickler, Ali Elwaer and Carl Wickett being present. Mike Heflin was absent. Also present was Village Manager James Krizan, Village Attorney Matt Cooper, Village Clerk/Treasurer Aaron Mitchell, Chief of Police David McLeese, outgoing Treasurer Roberta Rex and DPW Director Dale Avery for his final meeting after 46 years of public service for the Village of Decatur. 10 guests were also present.

Public Comment:

Kim Gunther of 213 N. Delaware thanked the village for the swift action taken on the Nelson property. A special thank you to Officer Simpson, and Chief McLeese, they did a lot of work to keep an eye on the property to make sure they were in compliance with the ordinance. Mrs. Gunther wanted to know what the plans were with the parcel now. VA and VM explained plans of demolishing the house.

Roberta Rex wanted to know what the plans were for the community service group signs that are still laying on the ground next to the new "Welcome to Decatur" sign. VM explains that he and DPW Director will be going through them and assessing what is still relevant and what kind of shape they are in. Trying to schedule a time to get them off the ground and in the DPW shop.

Robin Siegel feels that dogs are still a concern and therein lies a disconnect between the council and the community when it comes to this topic. She is not going out searching for people who have fears of dogs attacking them, like some believe. They are approaching her. She then asked to have dog attacks to be put on the agenda for the meeting. President Wickett asked if a council member would like to make a motion to add her to the agenda: no such motion was made.

Consent Agenda:

No alterations to the agenda. Motion to accept the agenda as presented made by N. Strickler, seconded by T. Stull, all voted yes.

Motion to accept the minutes as presented from the July 6th meeting made by R. Mead, seconded by P. Richardson, all voted yes. Motion to accept the minutes from the July 16th special meeting made by T. Stull and seconded by N. Strickler, all voted yes. Motion made to accept the bills that totaled \$111,893.23 by A. Elwaer and seconded by P. Richardson, all voted yes.

Communications: n/a

Officer Reports:

Treasurer- Nothing to add

Chief of Police- Decatur Day went very well, wished there were more people though.

DPW- nothing to add

Clerk- nothing to add

Village Attorney- Hurd has not cleaned the property, even after the 60 days he has spent in jail this year. Village can do it and put a lien on the property, he does not want that. So that may be the way to get his attention. The judge will sign a list of what will be removed from the house in order for it to get within compliance of the blight ordinance.

As for the Lion's Club property, there will be a meeting on August 10th for the small claims case.

Flory is going to demo the house on the Nelson property.

Village Manager- Setting up plan for sidewalks. Updating the website. Delivered notice of appeal hearing to go in front of the construction board to Bernie Sherburn for a building code violation. Thanked Dale for 46 years of public service and invited all to his open house at the VFW on Saturday August 8th.

Unfinished Business:

Ordinance 199- Open Burning Ordinance will group together 4 separate ordinances to make it easier to punish violators. Motion to accept the ordinance made by A. Elwaer, seconded by T. Stull. All voted yes.

School St. Property - One of the original bids (Kal-Trek) has backed out, and an additional bid has been received by Pitsch for \$44,000. The difference in the much lower price is likely due to the fact Pitsch has their own landfill. Motion to enter into a contract with Pitsch for \$44,000 made by N. Strickler and seconded by A. Elwaer. All voted yes.

New Business:

DPW Foreman/Operator – The hiring committee recommends James Ebeling for the position, he comes with near 20 years of experience. Starting wage will be \$21/hour. Less administrative of a position than before, VM will be handling that aspect of the department. Motion to hire James Ebeling made by A. Elwaer, seconded by P. Richardson. All voted yes.

Red Woolfe Park- Many residents would like the park to stay open past the traditional September 1st closing date. However life guards are not budgeted to work past that date. VM has spoken with VA and believes the village would be safe to have signs up that state there are no lifeguards on duty and still be able to keep the park open. Council agrees for VM to purchase signs and keep the park open till October 15th from 3pm to dusk.

MML Workman's Compensation Fund Election – Motion made by N. Strickler and seconded by P. Richardson to vote for the 6 incumbents in the uncontested election. All voted yes.

Phelps St. Final Pay Estimate – Mickey Bittner of Wightman & Associates presents the last invoice of \$9,979.20 for the Phelps St. paving project. Motion to pay invoice by R. Mead and seconded by A. Elwaer. All voted yes.

Public Comment:

Robin Siegel wants a map to be dispersed to show residents the places around the village that have dangerous dogs. Council President Wickett offers a place for her to put her maps out front, but in no way can the council sponsor such a map, VA agrees that they could not sponsor such a map.

Council Comments:

P. Richardson: Congrats Dale.

T. Stull: "Absenteeism by board members needs to be addressed. What can we do as a board?" VA and VM believe a policy would have to be created and put in place to prevent a board member from not getting a council check if they are not present at a regular meeting. Jim Abshagen believes that a board member only has to be at 2 meetings a year to keep their position.

C. Wickett: "Dale, everyone always knew that the snow would be plowed and a water leak would be fixed, the village residents will miss you, thank you for your service."

Motion to adjourn made by A. Elwaer and seconded by P. Richardson, all voted yes at 7:44.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Mitchell, Village Clerk/Treasurer