

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE DECATUR VILLAGE COUNCIL

Apr 6, 2015
7:00 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following were present at roll call: Trustees: Robert Mead, Jr, Tom Stull, Norma Strickler, Mike Heflin, Ali Elwaer, and Carl Wickett. Also present: Chief McLeese, VC Conklin, VM Krizan, VT Rex, and sixteen guests. Excused: Atty Cooper, DPW Avery.

President Wickett opened the meeting and requested that Patrick Richardson be appointed as council trustee. Motion made by M. Heflin and seconded by A. Elwaer. All in favor, motion carried. VC gave the Oath of Office.

President Wickett welcomed everyone and asked if there were any public comments that were not on the agenda. Lee Moser, Financial Advisor from Modern Woodman of America, presented his idea to put up a new "Welcome" sign for Decatur to be put on north M51. \$4,000 was raised for this project. Motion to approve the installation of a new welcome sign was made by A. Elwaer and seconded by T. Stull. All in favor, motion carried. Commissioner Don Hanson presented information regarding a road Proposal 1 to be voted on May 5. President Wickett asked if there were any agenda additions/deletions. Hearing none, moved by A. Elwaer and seconded by N. Strickler to accept the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2015 meeting was made by M. Heflin and seconded by T. Stull. All in favor, motion carried. Motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$125,236.94 was made by A. Elwaer and seconded by R. Mead. All in favor, motion carried.

Communications: Bill from the Community Center was discussed and determined invalid. Building Code Library, requirements have not yet been determined. Hazardous Waste, no action needed services covered by the township. Mr. Lezan had requested a solution for a problem with semi's turning down Mason Street leaving ruts in his lawn. Council to postpone until next meeting.

Officer reports: VT Rex had nothing to report. Chief McLeese had nothing to add to his report. VC Conklin had nothing to add, council member noted the attorney fees for the year, and questioned the current loans that may have to be written off. VM Krizan reported working on the Joint Master Plan Review and updating zoning and Codification. The Fire board building repairs and a reminder for the annual meeting June 29th, and an early warning siren test on Saturday at noon. Fire department repairs included an issue regarding the stove being brought up to commercial code rather than residential. The DNR has approved our updated Five Year Parks & Rec Plan. A summer worker, to be paid by the DDA to help with the maintenance of the downtown area, 20 hrs a week for about 13 weeks.

Unfinished Business: March 23 the Construction Board upheld the demolition of the old Edgar Bergen Annex at the Community Center. The Community Center has until April 22 before the next step. Council also questioned whether they ever produced proof of insurance, demolition bids, or communicated as to the progress. VM reported no communication from them. Motion made by A. Elwaer and seconded by T. Stull to set the salary for the DPW Superintendent at \$50,500. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Robert Mead, Tom Stull, and Ali Elwaer. Nays: N. Strickler, M. Heflin, P. Richardson, and C. Wickett. Motion Failed. Due to the fact that DPW Superintendent Avery has officially resigned there would not be a purpose to change the position at this time. Motion made by M. Heflin and seconded by N. Strickler to rescind the original motion on January 5, 2015 to make the position salaried. Ayes: P. Richardson, C. Wickett, N. Strickler, and M. Heflin. Nays: T. Stull, A. Elwaer, and R. Mead. Motion carried.

New Business: Ryan Wieber, Van Buren District Library spoke regarding the upcoming additional .2 tax levy that would be on the ballot. The additional funding needed due to the declining economy over the past few

years. A vehicle maintenance policy and a yard waste and brush pickup policy was presented. Motion to adopt was made by N. Strickler and seconded by P. Richardson. All in favor, motion carried. The Village annual report will be put online. Motion to allow Dixon to do a warranty inspection for \$1,670.00 was made by R. Mead and seconded by A. Elwaer. All in favor, motion carried. Brad from Wightman's presented the bids for the Phelps Street Project. Motion made by A. Elwaer and seconded by R. Mead to accept the bid from Reith Riley in the amount of \$179,390.50 which included resurfacing of one block of North George Street. All in favor, motion carried. Due to an increase in the cost for dash cams for the police department vehicles, a motion was made by A. Elwaer and seconded by T. Stull to amend the budget to allow for the additional cost and purchase from Digital Ally in the amount of \$7,550.00. All in favor, motion carried. VM also noted surplus stop signs that can no longer be used, and cut wood from the road project. Motion made by R. Mead and seconded by T. Stull to bid out the wood, and offer for sale the stop signs at \$5 each. All in favor, motion carried. Discussion followed regarding the July 4th Fireworks, due to booking issues with the 4th being on Saturday we will not have the fireworks on that date. Other options will be offered for village input.

Council Comments: No council comments. Village Clerk thanked the council for allowing her to serve her fellow residents and announced that she would be resigning as of May 1st. Motion made by A. Elwaer and seconded by R. Mead to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lou Ann Conklin
Village Clerk