

Official Minutes - Village of Decatur Council Meeting November 2, 2015

The November 2, 2015 meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan was called to order by President Wickett at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call was taken with Trustee Richardson, Trustee Mead, Trustee Stull, Trustee Strickler, Trustee Heflin, President Pro-Tem Elwaer and President Wickett being present. Also present: Village Attorney Cooper, Village Manager Krizan, Village Clerk/Treasurer Mitchell, and Chief McLeese, along with 12 guests.

Public Comment:

Kim Gunther (213 E. Delaware) asks VA for a timeline on the Nelson property. VA states he has just filed for default and will file with the court tomorrow or Wednesday. He hopes and plans to get a court order to demolish the house. There is a rumor around town that someone wants to rehab the home, but nobody has spoken with VA about that.

Consent Agenda:

VM Krizan requests to add the disposing of old equipment under New Business b. DHFD and QR audits subset i. Motion to accept the agenda with the new addition made by Trustee Mead and seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

Motion made by Trustee Richardson and seconded by Trustee Heflin to accept the minutes from the October 5, 2015 regular meeting. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion to accept the bills as presented for a total of \$128,222.37 by Trustee Strickler and seconded by Trustee Mead. All in favor, motion carries.

Communications:

Don Hanson reports the findings of a recent Van Buren county study that showed a 6% increase in home values, however there will only be a .5% increase in tax revenue, so revenue will stay about the same. Explains the benefits of the \$500,000 investments made to install BS and A software at the county level. The county now has a new parking lot to the south of the courthouse with 27 new spots and next year there will be an additional 50 spots available.

Reports:

Chief McLeese- no questions

VC/VT Mitchell- no questions

VA Cooper- explains that he hopes to be able to demolish Nelson building soon, and appreciates the patients the neighbors are showing. After being asked about the location of the Lopez resident address, an audience member explained it is 309 N. Phelps St.

VM Krizan speaks on how well leaf pick-up is going with the new leaf vac. Mentions that the Well Stations have passed their annual inspections.

Unfinished Business:

Council Policies and Rules of Procedures- Motion to accept the adoption of the document by Trustee Mead and seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

Bronson Letter of Support- President Wickett would like to have a letter of support to keep the local Bronson Lakeview Medical Center's laboratory blood services in Decatur. Otherwise, residents will have to travel into Paw Paw to get any blood work done. This is going to be challenging for some of the older residents that have a difficult time already trying find forms of transportation within town let alone with the coming winter that will put snow and ice on the roads. Motion to allow President Wickett and VM Krizan to craft a letter to Bronson made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Heflin. All in favor, motion carries.

DHFD and QR Audit- Motion made to accept the DHFD and QR Audit as presented made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

DHFD Old Equipment Disposal- The equipment that is no longer in working condition is still considered an asset, so the village needs to approve of getting rid of it. Motion to approve the disposal of defective equipment made by Trustee Stull and seconded by Trustee Heflin. All in favor, motion carries.

Budget Amendments- Cleaning up some accounts, no bottom lines are changing. We are in good shape, now over a half-way through the fiscal year. Motion to accept the budget amendments as presented made by Trustee Strickler and seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.

Resolution 2015-08: MDOT- Annual Permit- This permit allows for sewer services to be done. Motion to apply for MDOT permit made by Trustee Richardson and seconded by Trustee Heflin. All in favor, motion carries.

Resolution 2015-09: Annual opt-out of PA 152 (80%/20% split on healthcare costs)- We have been at about an 84%-16% rate for quite some time now and it seems to work. It allows us to help out our employees. Motion to opt-out of PA 152 made by Trustee Mead and seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

Budget Committee Report and Recommendations-

- i. Publishing of minutes- The committee looked at the amount paid for the publishing of council meeting minutes, feeling it is too much. VM explains the spreadsheet that broke down each month's publishing expenses, the minutes averaged out to \$246/month. After speaking with Dave Moorman from The Republican, VM says the Village could have a flat rate of \$200/month. An option the Budget Committee offered was publishing a synopsis, which would only be \$50/month. A thorough discussion over how much council would like to spend on publishing ensued, which included all members speaking their opinion on the topic. Followed by a motion to switch publishing form to a synopsis and no longer publish the official meeting minutes was made by Trustee Mead and seconded by Trustee Stull. Roll call vote: Ayes-Trustees Mead, Stull, Heflin and President Pro-Tem Elwaer (4) Nays- Trustees Richardson, Strickler and President Wickett (3). Motion passes.

- ii. Filling the open officer position- The Budget Committee requested not filling Officer Simpson's full-time spot, and only hire a part-time officer and have Chief McLeese fill in the rest with patrol duties, which would equal to about half of his 40 hours a week, for the purpose of saving money. A discussion amongst council went over possible effects of Chief having less administrative hours, including a possible trial period to see the effect on Chief McLeese's administrative duties. Motion made to not hire a full-time officer at this time and allow for Chief McLeese to fill in on patrol duty as he sees fit by Trustee Heflin, seconded by Trustee Mead. Roll call vote: Ayes- Trustees Mead, Stull, Heflin, and President Pro-Tem Elwaer, and President Wickett (5) Nays- Trustees Richardson and Strickler (2). Motion passes. (Since the committee met, Officer Matthew Driscoll has also taken a job elsewhere, that spot must be filled to retain 24/7 policing.)

MML Personnel Policy Review and Update- President Pro-Tem Elwaer and Trustee Richardson volunteer to be on the committee.

Manager Evaluation- Average score was 3.2, in between satisfactory (3) and above average (4).

Public Comment:

Charlene Jackson (410 Kinney Rd.) is not happy about how some council members are basing their votes on personal feelings about individuals rather than what is best for the taxpayers of the village.

Robin Siegel (209 Prairie Ronde Dr.) is waiting for Mike Heflin to arrange for a meeting to discuss her dog attack, which was originally scheduled for January. Robin was stopped after 3 minutes and needed to be warned about being removed after she refused to stop talking.

Comments from Council:

President Pro-Tem Elwaer wants to emphasize the time and energy that he and other council members puts into all council decisions. The Budget committee met to try and save taxpayer money, no personal feelings were involved.

Trustee Stull wonders why the leaf pick-up still accepts leaves in plastic bags. Those were not supposed to be allowed anymore. But they are still accepting them. Maybe put it on the water bills to spread the word.

Motion to adjourn made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries. Adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Mitchell

Village Clerk/Treasurer