

Official Minutes – Village of Decatur Council Meeting October 5, 2015

The October 5, 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 Heflin, President Pro-tem Elwaer and President Wickett all being present and Trustee Strickler was absent. Also present: Village Attorney Cooper, Village Manager Krizan, Village Clerk/Treasurer Mitchell, DPW Foreman Ebeling, Chief of Police McLeese and Deputy Chief of Police Dahlquist with ten guests.

Public Comment:

Jim Abshagen believes the village has lost the best policeman they have ever had, in Officer Simpson. He was the go-to person for the residents. Wants the village to use him as the zoning administrator while he continues to work as part-time for the duration of the contract that Decatur Township signed. He was the reason that they agreed to the deal. Decatur Township has a great relationship with Officer Simpson, and wants that to continue. President Wickett agrees and believes that he will be able to continue as the zoning administrator, while Simpson stays on as a part-time officer.

Jane Flanagan believes that the water leak on the School St. property was caused by Pitsch and they should be forced to fix it. A bill was sent to Flanagan from the village for over \$500 for the use of over 375,000 gallons of water passing through the meter, and they have not even used the water. It worked fine before the demolition. President Wickett asks DPW Foreman Ebeling for his opinion and he believes a leak is highly possible with old pipes. But, nobody will know unless you dig it up, and it is past the main, so it is on the property owner to do that. President Wickett asks the council if they would consider paying 50% of the bill as has been done in the past for leaks, council agrees to that arrangement.

Kim Gunther wants clarification on the Nelson house. President Wickett explains the court ruling that states Nelson was given 30 days to tend to the property and bring it within compliance of the blight ordinance, those thirty days are now nearly up. When that deadline does expire, the Village will use the DPW workers and invoice Nelson for the cost to clean the property.

Consent Agenda:

An addition of Van Buren County Commissioner, Don Hanson to the agenda under Communications. Motion to accept the agenda with the addition of Don Hanson under communications made by Trustee Heflin, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

Trustee Mead makes a motion to accept the minutes from September 8th meeting, seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.

Trustee Heflin makes a motion to accept the bills as presented in a total of \$135,153.09, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

Communication:

Don Hanson speaks on behalf of the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners to inform the village on a piece of proposed legislature that will prevent the damage done by “Dark Stores”. Which are big box stores that are very specific in their construction such as Lowe’s or Costco. The buildings are rendered

nearly worthless after the businesses leave, considering the limited amount of businesses that could use the buildings as they are constructed. They are so individualized, that if that company leaves the property, not only do they not provide much value but they cost a lot of money to demolish. This piece of legislature will help prevent the many tax breaks that often go to the companies that construct such buildings. It was crafted by Van Buren county's own Ed Vandervries.

Officer Reports:

Chief of Police- nothing to add

Financial- nothing to add

Attorney- nothing to add

Manager- Hydrant flushing is delayed by one day

- met with Wightman and Associates to discuss plans of finishing Phelps St. next year

- did road ratings today and we have increased our number of miles of quality roads and decreased the number of miles of inferior roads, so we are going in the right direction

Unfinished Business:

Council Policy and Rules of Procedure- Would help with new council members and new staff to better understand how the council conducts business. President Wickett likes it, however believes it needs to be refined a bit with details that might be best for a committee to create. President Wickett and Trustee Stull volunteer to be on that committee.

Brush Policy Amendment – Special Pickups- Item was tabled at the September meeting. VM Krizan was able to speak to the DPW and they approve of the amendment and feel it will be a good policy. The residents will be invoiced for the cost to the village which will include the worker's wages and equipment rental. Motion to accept the Brush Policy Amendment – Special Pick up as presented made by Trustee Richardson and seconded by Trustee Heflin. Majority in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

Well Head Protection Plan- Explains procedures to retaining high quality water. President Pro-tem Elwaer comments how well the report was put together. VM Krizan agrees and mentions that he did not create it, but Michigan Rural Water Association did.

Halloween/Trick or Treating hours- VM suggests Saturday October 31st from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Motion to have Halloween Trick or Treating hours on Saturday, October 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. made by Trustee Mead and seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.

Request from J.C. Tree Service- J.C. Tree Service has requested to purchase sand from our sand pit. Previously we have sold sand to Pitsch to backfill the lot they demoed. The request is for around 200 yards that will not be missed in the sand lot. Motion to sell sand to JC Tree Service at the same price as we previously sold it (\$2.00/yard) by Trustee Mead and seconded by Trustee Heflin. All in favor, motion carries.

Closed Session Pursuant to Section 8 (c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act – MCL 15.268 (c) – Motion to go into closed session made by President Pro-tem Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Richardson. Roll Call vote, all in favor, motion carries and council goes into closed session at 7:42 p.m.

Council comes back into open session at 8:30 p.m.

Village President:

Limited Public Comment- n/a

Comments from Council – President Pro-tem Elwaer asks VM Krizan about progress of updating ordinances. VM Krizan explains the need of first getting the 5 year plan done, after that we will be able to proceed with updates. Trustee Mead has noticed the painting of the hydrants and thinks it looks really good.

Motion to adjourn made by President Pro-tem Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Mitchell, Village Clerk/Treasurer