

Village of Decatur Regular Council Meeting July 5, 2016

Village Council President Wickett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at 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 all present, no one absent. Village Attorney Cooper, Chief of Police Dahlquist, DPW Foreman Ebeling, Village Manager Mitchell along 32 visitors also present.

Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Trustee Richardson to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.

President Wickett asks for a spelling correction to be made in the June 6, 2016 minutes. President Pro-Tem Elwaer makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented with the correction made, seconded by Trustee Heflin. All in favor, motion carries.

Trustee Mead makes a motion to accept the bills as presented in a total of \$183,614.72, seconded by Trustee Stull. All in favor, motion carries.

Public Participation:

County Commissioner Don Hanson gives the Village an update. 1) The County is entering into negotiations with the union PLOC. 2) Judge Brinkley is trying to work out a deal with 2 to 3 other counties to use the same pool of Public Defenders, due to a new law that has expanded their need. 3) Liability at the County jail is an issue, will cost \$5M to help limit attempted suicides.

Terry Starr wants a waiver from Ordinance 151: Waste Management. Waste Management (WM) is not picking up their garbage, it has been multiple weeks without pickup. VM explains the conversation he had with WM representative, and explains there is an open dialogue with them to clear up any misunderstandings. President Wickett asks VM to set up a meeting with WM, Starr and the VM at Village Hall, Starr agrees to a sit down.

Betty Loveland requests not to be attacked in public for speaking up at the meetings.

Sikander Sing asks for the Council to consider putting in a flashing light at the intersection of S. Phelps and Sherwood. A drunk driver crashed into his store front last week. He has previously noticed a lot of drivers that do not stop at the stop sign currently there. President Wickett asks VM to look into what options are available and their respective prices.

Dan Abbott is running for Van Buren County Sherriff.

Matt Nillson is running for State Representative of the 66th District.

Robin Siegel speaks on dogs within the Village. Mentions a pit bull on White Oaks attacked a girl last month. Why does the council not know about these attacks?

Marty Mathieu questions the planning for the Skate Park Pavilion. Believes it will be too big and should have had blueprints done before bids were received.

Communication:

Aric Nesbitt's Annual Local Officials Meeting on July 25th - Council requests Village Manager to go on their behalf

Reports:

Financial Report- no questions

Attorney Report- no questions

Clerk Report- no questions

Village Manager- no questions

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

a. Interest in vacant piece of land in Industrial Park

Council forms committee to decide how to proceed with the two proposals for the real estate. Trustee Stull, Trustee Mead and Trustee Richardson volunteer for the committee.

b. J.C. and Sons quote

Council approves the quote for \$750.00. Trustee Stull enquires about the amount before a bidding process takes place, Council agrees on anything over \$1000.00 should go through a bidding process. President Wickett also would like to have J.C. and Sons to give a quote for the dead branches that are on the Ralston's property along the sidewalks.

c. Code Enforcement

Council asks VM to request bids for a new building inspector, with expectation that they will do rental inspections. Chief Dahlquist mentions that the Police Department have been able to keep up on the Code Enforcement.

d. Approval of Salaries of VM and Interim-Chief of Police

President Pro-Tem Elwaer makes a motion to accept the salaries, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

e. DPW small pickup truck

Council grants VM permission to request closed bids for the purchase of the DPW S10 truck and the PD Charger.

f. Scheduling of Special Meeting for interviews for Clerk/Treasurer

Council agrees to the dates of July 8, 11, and 12 as potential days if that works for the candidates.

g. DPW Part-time worker

Trustee Mead makes a motion to increase part-time DPW worker to 40 hours/week until Labor Day where he will go back down to 24, seconded by Trustee Richardson. Roll Call vote: Trustee Mead, Trustee Richardson, Trustee Gunther, Trustee Heflin and President Wickett for the motion. Trustee Stull and President Pro-Tem Elwaer against the motion. Motion carries 5-2.

Public Participation:

Pastor Ronnie Coleman feels the guard rail that has been beaten down is a liability and his insurance company is hoping an agreement can be made by all the property owners to put up a fence or a guard rail replacement. DPW Foreman Ebeling fears that a fence would be quickly destroyed by snow plowing, and a guard rail could be beaten up pretty bad as well. President Wickett suggests the VM meet with all

property owners involved (Pastor Coleman and a representative from Decatur One Stop) and see what can be done.

Edna Ralston is thankful her trees will be looked at because her sidewalk is used by the track team and a lot of runners.

Robin Siegel requests the Police Department look into the incident on 209 Beers St. Asks who on the council is aware of the dog at 102 Bronson St. Chief Dahlquist explains the investigation into that case turned up the fact that someone is apparently letting that dog out.

Council Comments:

Trustee Mead acknowledges the many positive changes in the DPW since Foreman Ebeling has taken over.

Trustee Gunther is happy to report that the blight at 211 E. Delaware will soon be taken care of by the homeowner. It is nice to see blight addressed in this quick manner.

President Pro-Tem Elwaer feels the parade and fireworks went well. Requests that the Village put a letter of appreciation in the paper.

President Wickett mentions the new book "A Soldier's Home" that has been written by our Village Attorney, Matthew Cooper. It explains the struggles of a service member from Hartford that had a landmark case against the Federal government over property rights while on active duty, and won.

Adjournment:

President Pro-Tem Elwaer makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor motion carries at 8:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Mitchell, Village Manager