

Village of Decatur Regular Council Meeting August 1st, 2016

Village Council President Wickett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the 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. Chief of Police Dahlquist, DPW Foreman Ebeling, along with 23 visitors were also present. Following roll call, the new Village Clerk/Treasurer, Matthew Newton, was sworn into the position.

Consent Agenda:

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

Trustee Mead makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Heflin. All in favor, motion carries.

Trustee Stull makes a motion to accept the bills as presented totaling \$76,202.33, seconded by Trustee Gunther. All in favor, motion carries.

Public Participation:

Bob Smola, President of Raider Stomp Fund, discusses moving the 2017 run/walk race from a Saturday morning start time to a Friday evening event. Tentative dates for the event are proposed for June 30th or July 7th. With the move to a Friday evening event, road closures would need to occur from 5:30PM to 7:30PM. Topic will be discussed with County and revisited in 1 to 2 months.

County Commissioner Don Hanson gives the Village an update on 3 items. 1) The county is implementing a double server backup due to electrical complications. They are acquiring 2 new servers with the latest technology for \$1.7 million. Both will utilize solid state drives for storage, and are very compatible with the cloud. They will be housed in the EOC/Sheriff's Department. 2) Lieutenant Robert Kirk has started an active shooter training program. Decatur Schools are scheduled for September. 3) The Veteran's Counselor for Van Buren County passed away. They are currently looking for a new candidate for the role.

Reports:

Village Attorney Report-Not present at meeting.

Financial Report- No further questions.

Attorney Report- No further questions.

Clerk Report- No further questions.

Chief of Police Report-Chief Dahlquist announces the hiring of 2 new officers, Arturo Hernandez and Andrew Delobel.

DPW Report-Foreman Ebeling verifies the effective response and removal of fallen tree on Edgar Bergan Blvd.

Village Manager-VM Aaron Mitchell reports that the guard rail north of the Village Hall has been replaced and painted. Ronnie Coleman and a representative from Decatur One Stop will sign off stating that the Village will not be responsible for future repairs of guard rail. Milling is to begin on N. Phelps St. project on Tuesday, August 2nd. Paving to be completed by Decatur Day on August 6th. The construction of the Skate Park Pavilion is underway this week. Trusses were delivered to the site on August 1st. As the project has been delayed, VM Mitchell to review contract regarding time of completion.

Ongoing Business:

A. The SWMPC has released the Decatur-Hamilton Joint Comprehensive Plan. There will be 30 days to review for any alterations, if required.

B. VM Mitchell proposes amending the current Blight Ordinance. The new ordinance would increase timeliness with respect to dealing with issues and provide shorter delays. A sample ordinance in place in Lawton was presented as an example. VM Mitchell will work with Chief Dahlquist and Attorney Cooper to get new ordinance drafted for presentation to council.

C. Red Wolfe Park will remain open until October 15th, weather permitting. Following Labor Day, the park will be open on weekdays starting at 3:30PM and closing at dusk. During the weekend the park will be open from 12:00PM to dusk.

New Business:

A. A salary of \$41,000.00 is proposed for the Village Clerk/Treasurer position. Trustee Mead makes motion to approve salary, seconded by President Pro-Tem Elwaer. All in favor, motion carries.

B. Lee Moser from Modern Woodmen presents a proposal to take over maintenance of the Village employee's retirement program. Compared to the current provider, Nationwide, Lee indicated that his proposal would see a reduction in fees charged for the fund and per employee. Lee also indicated that Modern Woodmen could provide add-on services at each employee's discretion and would provide education for all interested employees. Lee indicated that he would need the Plan Document from Nationwide to be able to provide a more accurate estimate. Before decision is to be made, a committee is to be formed to review and compare all available options for switching providers for the retirement fund. Then, options will be presented to employees for their review.

Public Participation:

Robin Siegel speaks about 2 dog attacks that allegedly occurred. Robin indicates that the first incident purportedly occurred on July 14th, and it involved 3 dogs whom allegedly attacked a cat and owner of 204 W. St. Mary's. The dogs were alleged to have been pets of the owner of 118 W. Delaware Street. Robin indicated that the Michigan State Police told her that the case would be turned over to Animal Control. As of today, Robin alleges that no changes have been made at the home of the dogs, where she believes there are 9 adult dogs and 1 puppy. She also reported that another incident had occurred on July 17th at 214 W. Sherwood. Robin expresses concern that these issues are not being addressed with a sense of urgency.

Council Comment:

No further comments.

Adjournment:

President Pro-Tem Elwaer makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Newton, Village Clerk/Treasurer