

Village of Decatur Regular Council Meeting November 7th, 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. Chief of Police Dahlquist, Attorney Matthew Cooper, Officer Crusen, Officer Rigg, Officer Delobel, and 16 visitors also in attendance. Following Pledge of Allegiance, new Police Officer Cody Anderson was sworn in by VC Newton. DPW Foreman Ebeling arrived from a prior engagement at 7:29PM.

Consent Agenda:

President Pro-Tem Elwaer makes a motion to accept the agenda as amended to include reversal of October motion to winterize boiler at 312 School St. under New Business, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

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

Trustee Heflin makes a motion to accept the bills as presented totaling \$94,387.12, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor, motion carries.

Public Participation:

James Abshagen thanks departing Village Council members for their service to the community. Expresses concern over candidates for Council Trustee positions not in regular attendance of meetings.

Carl Wicket asks Jim Abshagen for status of 45th St. repairs. Jim indicates that there originally was a delay due to railroad crossing upgrade work that needed to be completed. Dickey McCarty, Construction Engineer for Amtrak, indicates that the work for crossings has now been completed. Jim indicates that they are waiting on some additional funding from County, but original plan was to complete within 1 year. Indicates it is up to Decatur Township Road Committee.

Ted Gipson requests that he be allowed to procure AA program materials that had been in 312 School St. Property. Permission given by Village Council for him to procure those materials.

Charlene Jackson makes inquiry regarding apartment over barber shop and asks if it is listed as rental. She makes request for Village to check its records and expresses concern over building fire safety due to single stairwell.

Communication:

A letter was received from Rose Mitchell expressing thanks to DPW workers for timely and satisfactory completion of sidewalk work. Also, thanks Trustee Stull for time and effort he has put forth.

Reports:

Village Attorney Report- Attorney Cooper notes everything is quiet regarding litigation. Attorney Cooper announces he will be speaking at VFW on Veteran's Day for his book.

Financial Reports-No further questions.

Clerk Report- VC Newton reports that he will be setting up visit to City of Benton Harbor soon and will report on his findings at next Council Meeting.

Chief of Police Report-Chief Dahlquist reports that roughly \$15,000.00 in furniture was procured from closing of Fifth Third Building. Officer Rigg had a contact that made department aware of opportunity to

procure quality items at no cost. As such, furniture upgrades were completed in PD office and Water/Sewer office with only cost being the moving truck that was required to get the items. Officer Rigg also speaks on the importance of community policing initiatives and explains that creating contacts with businesses and citizens of community is a crucial component of success regarding lines of communication. Officer Rigg also indicates that 534 property checks were completed in month of October.

DPW Report-VM Mitchell indicates that full leaf pickup of community will be completed by following day. But, that work will continue on getting all leaves taken care of prior to snowfall as new leaves fall. Asks council if OT becomes necessary to complete the task is that acceptable. Council indicates OT is acceptable, if necessary. Discretion is given to DPW Foreman Ebeling to determine necessity of OT. Village Manager Report-VM Mitchell explains new Building Permit Application that was created to assist new building inspector and streamline process.

Ongoing Business:

A. Approval of SWMPC Distribution of Draft Plan. This measure had been approved last month, but SWMPC noted that Planning Commission had not approved it. As such, Planning Commission meeting was held to approve it. As that is now complete, new Approval of SWMPC Distribution of Draft Plan is necessary. Motion made by Trustee Mead, seconded by President Pro-Tem Elwaer, all in favor, motion carries.

B. Resolution 2016-15, a resolution to update fees for building and rental permits within the Village of Decatur is presented. It is the first update to fee schedule in nearly 20 years. For building inspections, fee structure is based on square footage. For rental inspections, new fee is proposed at \$55.00, which comes with 1 re-inspection should that be necessary. Additional re-inspections or missed appointments will cost \$25.00. With fee structure, building inspector will retain 90% of fee with 10% going to the Village to cover administrative costs. In addition, this new fee schedule is designed to be approved at beginning of each fiscal year to accommodate for any required changes as they may occur. Motion to approve made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer, seconded by Trustee Stull, all in favor, motion carries.

C. Selection of 3 Village Council members to be on Building Committee, who will represent Village at Town Hall meeting that is being coordinated to address future of 312 School St. property. VM Mitchell also reports that VB County Sheriff Jail Crew cleanup efforts over previous weekend went very well. Also reports that Deputy Martin believes that the building has significant salvageable materials that Jail Crew could assist in removing to prep for sale. VM Mitchell also reports that Fire Chief Conklin has expressed some interest in using the site for a practice burn for Fire Department and, possibly, a joint effort with other departments due to the size of building and rareness in those sort of sites coming up that are viable for that type of use should demolition be the determined course of action. Trustee Mead asks about whether grants might be possible to assist with demolition costs. Mickey Bitner, from Wightman and Associates, explains that there are some possible options depending on intended use of property. USDA offers grant possibilities pertaining to green space enhancement. Other program may offer low interest rate loan if developing area for new DPW building. Explains that determination on future of property would need to be made then grant options can be explored. Trustee Mead, Trustee Stull, and President Pro-Tem Elwaer volunteer to be on Building Committee.

D. Bid for Asbestos Survey of 312 School St. Property was received from Analytical Testing and Consulting Services, Inc. in the amount of \$1,300.00. Decision on whether to move forward with survey was tabled for future meeting.

E. Approval to purchase chemical pump for Decatur water wells. These pumps would be used in case of emergency need to add treatment to water. Recommended pump is adjustable to be used on multiple wells for a cost of \$1,350.00. Motion to approve purchase made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer, seconded by Trustee Richardson, all in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

A. Proposal to address concerns regarding parking at S. Phelps/W. Sherwood. 3 options are proposed. First option is to remove all parking. Second option is to remove angled parking and create 2 or 3 parallel parking spaces with 1 being a handicap accessible space. Final option is to leave as is. Chief Dahlquist suggests parallel parking spots would be his preference. President Pro-Tem Elwaer states that this area does result in a safety concern necessitating a change from its current state. VM Mitchell and Chief Dahlquist to inform business owners in that area of plan, inquire as to their view on situation, and report back and next Council meeting where final decision will be made.

B. Approval of Fire Board Resolution 2016-16, which would approve donation of 2 old air tanks to VBISD for fireman training that are no longer needed by Decatur-Hamilton Fire Department, as new ones were purchased this year. Approval of resolution required by all governing bodies within fire district to donate or destroy equipment. Motion to approve donation to VBISD is made by Trustee Gunther and seconded by President Pro-Tem Elwaer. Trustees Richardson, Stull, Heflin, Gunther, President Pro-Tem Elwaer, and President Wicket approve, Trustee Mead abstains, and motion carries.

C. Motion to reverse October motion to winterize heating system at 312 School St. property is made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer, seconded by Trustee Stull, all in favor, motion carries.

Public Participation:

Rosemary Stull expresses displeasure that so much food that was donated to Decatur Lions at the 312 School St. property went to waste through expiration and nonuse.

Dickey McCarty asks about future of sidewalk work. In particular, liability of sidewalk in poor condition. Explains condition of section of sidewalk in his yard. DPW Foreman Ebeling to examine the area to assess options. President Pro-Tem Elwaer indicates copy of sidewalk ordinance will be procured and furnished following adjournment of meeting.

Ted Gipson requests that Village investigate addition of street lamp on Village owned lot on White Oak/Champion.

Council Comment:

Trustee Heflin indicates that it's been a pleasure serving this community and will hope for the best for everyone.

Trustee Gunther indicates she wants to see Permanent Chief of Police appointment on next month's meeting agenda.

Trustee Richardson thanks President Wicket for his service to community.

President Pro-Tem Elwaer thanks Trustee Heflin and President Wicket for their service to community. He also asks about tree that has fallen down near High's Marine. VM Mitchell clarifies that is state owned property and both Evelyn and he have contacted state about issue. President Pro-Tem Elwaer also

requests that titles be added to ordinances as a temporary measure to help with easier identification prior to upcoming codification process. Also expresses concern over problems with illegal U-turns in downtown area on Phelps St. Inquires as to whether striping needs to be changed, higher enforcement rate, or other options at Village disposal to address issue.

President Wicket thanks Norma Strickler, Dale Avery, DPW Department, PD, Front Office, all previous Village Managers and Clerks, Dave Moorman, Warren Grosvenor, and Attorney Cooper for their service to community and performance in those roles over the years.

Adjournment:

Motion made by President Pro-Tem Elwaer to adjourn meeting, seconded by Trustee Mead, all in favor, motion carries at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Newton, Village Clerk/Treasurer