

Village of Decatur
Regular Council Meeting, Monday, February 5th, 2018

Present: *Elwaer, Gunther, Hayes, Jackson, Mead, Pachner, Stull*

Absent: *None*

Guests: *Chief of Police VanDerWoude; Attorney Cooper; DPW Foreman Ebeling; County Commissioner Don Hanson; and 9 visitors.*

The meeting was called to order in the Decatur Village Hall by President Elwaer at 7:00 PM

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Elwaer. *Pledge of Allegiance*
2. Short Public Comment *Public Comment*
Don Hanson made comment on 1 item
 - a. Hanson stated that Edward VanderVries, Equalization Department Director; Shafeeq Hameed, Information Services; and the Deputy Director were all resigning their respective positions with the County. He noted that all of them had done a very good job in their roles. He noted they will be working to find qualified candidates to fill these positions.
3. Mead moved, Stull seconded, CARRIED, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Agenda amended to change the title of item F under New Business to Clerk/Treasurer Posting, Minutes from the January 8th Regular Meeting and January 8th Closed Session Meeting, and bills in a total of \$114,627.29. All were in favor. *Consent Agenda*
4. Correspondence
 - a. Mitchell presented the State of the Village document. It is to be published in the Decatur Republican. Mitchell indicated that he was very proud of what was accomplished in the past year, highlighting the hiring of Chief VanDerWoude, the state of the Police Department, park improvements, road projects, and the completion of the SAW Grant. *State of Village*
 - b. Mitchell reviewed a letter received from State Representative Griffin congratulating the Village on the completion of the SAW Grant. *Letter from State Rep. Griffin*
5. Officer Reports *Officer Reports*
 - a. Village Attorney- No further questions.
 - b. Financial Reports/Clerk's Report
 - i. Newton reviewed tentative proposal of expanded Decatur Day event with the possible inclusion of a Rib-Fest type event. In addition, he mentioned the possibility of the Village taking a more active role in upcoming events through a possible committee including Council Trustees, Village staff, and community members as well as the possibility of utilizing the Village community event funds.
 - ii. Newton reviewed the Cash Summary Report noting the current balances of each fund. He indicated that the Village had \$3,350,078.46 in cash and cash equivalents across all Village funds as of December 31st, 2017.
 - c. DPW Report-no further questions
 - d. Chief of Police Report
 - i. VanDerWoude indicated that an arrest had been made for the homicide at 201 E. St. Mary's St. VanDerWoude read a press release and noted it was sent to the news. He

also thanked the police officers of the Decatur Police Department, the Decatur-Hamilton Fire Department, the Van Buren County Major Crime's Task Force, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department, the Michigan State Police, the Michigan State Fire Marshall, Benton Harbor Safe Streets Task Force, and the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for the efforts. He further stated that the investigation is not done, it will continue, and there is a possibility of additional charges being filed.

6. Gunther moved, Hayes seconded, CARRIED, to open Public Hearing on FY '19 Budget. All were in favor. *Open Public Hearing on FY '19 Budget*
 - a. No visitors wished to make comment.

7. Mead moved, Hayes seconded, CARRIED, to close Public Hearing on FY '19 Budget. All were in favor. *Close Public Hearing on FY '19 Budget*

8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Hayes moved, Jackson seconded, CARRIED, to approve Resolution 2018-01: 2018-2019 Budget. *Resolution 2018-01: 2018-2019 Budget*

Roll Call Vote:
Aye: Jackson, Hayes, Pachner, Gunther, Mead, Stull, Elwaer
No: None
 - b. Project Committee
 - i. Jackson moved, Gunther seconded, CARRIED, to approve road projects for FY '19. *FY '19 Road Projects*

The road projects to be completed include E. Edgar Bergan Blvd. from Delaware to Prospect, N. East St. from E. St. Mary's St. to E. Edgar Bergan, Rogers St. from E. Edgar Bergan to Village Limits, and Rosewood Ave. from W. Edgar Bergan to the end of Rosewood Ave.

Roll Call Vote:
Aye: Jackson, Hayes, Gunther, Mead, Stull, Elwaer
No: Pachner
 - ii. Council declined to pursue Beers St. Storm Sewer Project in FY '19. All were opposed. *Beer St. Project*

9. New Business
 - a. Mead moved, Stull seconded, CARRIED, to approve budget amendments for FY '18 in the amount of \$50,750.00 for the Sewer Fund, \$10,000.00 for the Water Fund, and \$40,000.00 for the Motor Pool Fund. *FY '18 Budget Amendments*

Roll Call Vote:
Aye: Jackson, Hayes, Pachner, Gunther, Mead, Stull, Elwaer
No: None
 - b. Mead moved, Pachner seconded, CARRIED, to approve the purchase of 2 Stalker DSR Radar units to be installed in the 2016 and 2017 Police Interceptors in the amount of \$2,190.00. All were in favor. *PD Radar Units*
 - c. Gunther moved, Jackson seconded, CARRIED, to approve the purchase of a laptop for vehicle salvage inspections in the amount of \$2,199.00. All were in favor. *Laptop-Salvage Inspect.*
 - d. Jackson moved, Mead seconded, CARRIED, to approve the purchase of 2 sets of snow tires for the 2016 and 2017 Police Interceptors in the amount of \$3,245.68. All were in favor. *PD Snow Tires*
 - e. Mead moved, Gunther seconded, CARRIED, to approve FY '19 Wage Adjustments. The adjustments consist of a 2% cost of living increase for all non-union employees, the *FY '19 Wage Adjustments*

increase of the DPW part-time position's hourly rate to \$12.00 per hour, and an increase to the DPW Foreman position's hourly rate to \$25.00 per hour.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Jackson, Hayes, Gunther, Mead, Elwaer

No: Pachner, Stull

- f. Hayes moved, Gunther seconded, CARRIED, to approve the posting of the Village Clerk & Treasurer position as presented. The job posting will run February 6th through February 23rd and will be posted to the Village website and Indeed.com. A Special Meeting is to be scheduled at the conclusion of the posting period to allow for selected candidates to be interviewed, pending the appointment of Newton to Village Manager.

*Clerk/Treasurer
Job Posting*

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: Jackson, Hayes, Gunther, Mead, Stull, Elwaer

No: Pachner, Stull

10. Public Comment

Public Comment

Kevin Christensen made comment on 1 item.

- a. Kevin stated that he had been in touch with several contacts who offered support of a proposed Craft Beer Festival. He indicated he had a band set up for the event pending the approval of the event. He stated he would like to hold the event on June 2nd. Kevin also indicated that he's received interest from other craft brewers that they would be interested in attending the event. They were looking at holding the event from approximately 1:00 PM to 10:30 PM. He stated that they would need to get the approval relatively soon to get everything in place. Mitchell will check into liability coverage regarding this type of festival.

11. Council Comment

Council Comment

Gunther made comment on 1 item.

- a. Gunther congratulated Mitchell on his new position with Otsego.

Hayes made comment on 1 item.

- a. Hayes also congratulated Mitchell. He further stated that he has seen a lot of turnover with the Village Manager position previously. He stated that he would like to see Newton appointed to the position and sees Newton as a long-term option who was born and raised in the community.

Elwaer made comment on 3 items.

- a. Elwaer offered his thanks to Mitchell and Newton for their hard work. He indicated that while the Village appears to have served as a great training facility for Village Managers, he doesn't want to be seen as this. He illustrated that a lot of money goes into training and they keep having to start over. He stated that he would like to see a long-term solution and he sees Newton as a great fit. He further stated that he believes stability in this position would be a great thing for this community.
- b. Elwaer stated that he appreciated the hard work of the budget committee on the FY '19 Budget. He indicated that he felt the Village was in good financial shape. He further stated that he wants to see Decatur be a good location to work and does not want to see any doubts. He also stated that he wants to see the Village able to attract the best possible talent.
- c. Elwaer made a comment that if there are questions regarding content contained in the Council Packet or any other item to be discussed during a meeting to direct questions to Mitchell before the meeting to help ensure everyone understands the items to be discussed to help facilitate more effective discussion on agenda items.

Pachner made comment on 1 item.

- a. Pachner expressed frustration that Hill Street was removed from the FY '19 Road Projects that were selected. She indicated that it had been included at the previous meeting, but it was changed and she did not have notice of that until receiving the packet. Elwaer responded by stating that the Road Projects that were voted on during the meeting were those recommended by the Road Committee. He further stated that when she noticed in the packet that Hill Street was not included she should have contacted Mitchell to review and address this question rather than wait until the Meeting.

12. Gunther moved, Hayes seconded, CARRIED, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. All were in favor.

Adjournment