

Village of Decatur
Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday November 6, 2023, at 7:00 P.M
Village Hall, 114 N. Phelps Street
Decatur, MI 49045

I. President Elwaer called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. **Roll Call**

Clerk/Treasurer, Duncan provided roll call; Trustee Beute, Trustee Gunther (excused), President Pro Tem Jackson, Trustee Mead Jr., Trustee Pachner, Trustee Pelfrey, and President Elwaer in attendance. Also in attendance Village Manager, Christopher Tapper, Village Clerk/Treasurer, Megan Duncan, Chief of Police Thomas VanDerWoude, DPW Foreman James Ebeling (excused), and administrative assistant Shantel Pentland.

III. **Public Comments**

- a. Andy Pinkham, 220 Prairie Ronde, gave comment to Council concerning the road construction done in the spring/summertime of 2022. The engineered drainage ditch has caused the excess water to flow into his driveway. Mr. Pinkham commented that he feels he is being harassed by the Decatur Police Department for yard maintenance.
- b. Tina Leary, Van Buren County Commissioner, gave the Council updates about Van Buren County Veteran Services, including increased staffing, Veteran Courts Program for non-violent veterans, and the Veteran's Day Garden Gathering, Saturday, November 11, 2023. The gathering will be located at the MSU Extension Veteran's Therapy Garden, 801 Hazen Street Paw Paw, Mi 49079 from Noon-2:30pm.

IV. **Approval of Agenda, Meeting Minutes, Accounts Payable**

- a. Trustee Pelfrey made a motion with support from Trustee Mead Jr. to approve the Regular Council Meeting agenda for November 6, 2023, along with approval of the special meeting minutes from October 9, 2023, and accounts payable ending October 31, 2023, in the amount of \$249,040.62, motion carried 6-0.

V. **Communications to the Council – Presentation & Guest**

- a. There were no scheduled presentations and/or guests.

VI. **Public Hearing**

- a. President Pro Tem Jackson made a motion with support from Trustee Mead Jr. to close the Regular Council meeting and reconvene the Public Hearing at 7:08 P.M., motion carried 6-0.
- b. No public comment was given at the Public Hearing.
- c. Trustee Beute made a motion with support from Trustee Pelfrey to close the Public Hearing and re-enter back into the Regular Council meeting at 7:11 P.M., motion carried 6-0.
- d. President Pro Tem Jackson made a motion with support from Trustee Pelfrey to adopt ordinance 2023-005. Tax Increment Finance Plan along with the Downtown District Authority area expansion plan. Roll Call vote, Trustee Beute, President Pro Tem Jackson, Trustee Mead Jr., Trustee Pachner, Trustee Pelfrey, President Elwaer, all voting yes, motion carried 6-0.

VII. **Unfinished Business**

- a. No unfinished business.

VIII. **New Business – Request to approve Invoice from Amtrak, USDA Sewer/Stormwater pipeline not to exceed \$37,500.00.**

- a. Trustee Pachner made a motion with support from Trustee Mead Jr. to approve the invoice from Amtrak, USDA Sewer/Stormwater pipeline not to exceed \$37,500.00. Roll Call vote, Trustee Beute, President Pro Tem Jackson, Trustee Mead Jr., Trustee Pachner, Trustee Pelfrey, President Elwaer, all voting yes, motion carried 6-0.

IX. **New Business – Request to approve the Public Participation Plan for the Village of Decatur.**

- a. Trustee Pachner made a motion with support from Trustee Beute to approve the Public Participation Plan for the Village of Decatur, motion carries 6-0. Village Manager Tapper thanked and wanted Council to know that Clerk/Treasurer Duncan worked very hard to design this plan to check one boxes off the checklist to become RRC Certified.

X. **New Business – Request to review Village Manager Evaluation for 2023.**

- a. Village Manager Tapper gave approved President Elwaer to proceed with the evaluation with the public present. President Elwaer addressed Council with Village Manager Tapper's average evaluation of 4.02 out of 5, and his accomplishments this passed year. President Elwaer stated he is personally happy with the Village Manager's accomplishments.
- b. Trustee Pachner shared that her concerns were addressed in the Manager's evaluation letter.
- c. Trustee Mead Jr. stated Village Manager Tapper keeps him up to date and informed with what is going on with the Village.

- d. President Pro Tam Jackson stated Village Manager Tapper does an awesome job and responds quickly. She also mentioned that Village Manager Tapper was always present even with serve health issues, she appreciates the dedication.
- e. Trustee Beute stated Village Manager Tapper really knows what he is doing and appreciates all he does.
- f. Trustee Pelfrey stated Village Manager Tapper does a good job and appreciates the want to improve the community.

XI. Department Reports

- a. Clerk/Treasurer Duncan, Chief of Police, Thomas VanDerWoude, and DPW Forman, James Ebeling provided Department Reports to the Council. Each department report was provided in the agenda packet. A general discussion ensued regarding the department reports.
- b. Chief VanDerWoude reported to Council that the Boo Bash was an absolute success and thanked Clerk/Treasurer Duncan, Admin assistant Pentland, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Davis for all their work to make this fun for the kids and looking forward to Christmas.
- c. Trustee Pachner gave comments about the DPW report and her concern for the safety of the community when it comes to leaf pickup in the Village. A general discussion was held by Council.
- d. Village Manager Tapper announced to Village Council that the Village was in receipt of Trustee Gunther resignation.

XII. Public Comments

- a. Tina Leary gave comment to the Council that as a resident of the community she appreciates the leaf pickups and believes that DPW does a good job.

XIII. Council Comments & Additional Public Comments

- a. Trustee Mead Jr. appreciated the sidewalk construction on John Street, stated it should have been done decades ago.
- b. Trustee Beute thanked the DPW for the work they do for the community.
- c. President Pro Tem Jackson stated good job to Clerk/ Treasurer Duncan, Admin assistant Pentland, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Davis, and Village Manager Tapper. She also stated her concerns to Police Chief VanDerWoude about bike riders on downtown sidewalks.
- d. President Elwaer thanked all departments for all they do.

XIV.. Adjournment

- a. Trustee Mead Jr. made a motion with the support of Trustee Pachner to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 P.M., motion carried 6-0. Minutes submitted by Megan Duncan, Village Clerk/Treasurer.