

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

On Monday, March 16, 2009, the City Council of the City of Decatur, Illinois, met in Regular Meeting and Study Session at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, One Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, Illinois. Mayor Michael T. Carrigan presided; together with him being Councilmen Dan Caulkins, Larry W. Foster, Mike McElroy, and Betsy Stockard. Councilman Shad L. Edwards was absent and Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler was absent at roll call. Five members were present and two were absent. Mayor Carrigan declared a quorum present.

City Manager Ryan P. McCrady attended the meeting.

Mayor Carrigan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Invocation was given by Dan Watkins, Chaplain, Decatur Police Department.

The minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2009, were presented. Councilman McElroy moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Councilwoman Stockard.

Councilman Caulkins moved the minutes be tabled to the next Council meeting due to lack of sufficient votes; seconded by Councilwoman Stockard, and on call of the roll, Councilmen McElroy, Stockard, Caulkins, Foster, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Mayor Carrigan called for New Business.

This being the time set for Proclamations and Recognitions, Roger Driskell, Professional Engineer, Director of Highways Region 4 District 7 of the Illinois Department of Transportation, presented the State of Illinois 2008 Contractor of the Year Award of Excellence to Don Allen of Otto Baum, Inc. and Byron Bowman, City of Decatur Engineer Technician III and Project Manager, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the revitalization of the West Main Streetscape Project.

There were no Proclamations.

Ordinance No. 2009-12, authorizing Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor in Central Park for Annual Summer Blues Concerts, was presented.

Councilman Caulkins moved the ordinance do pass; seconded by Councilman Foster, and on call of the roll, Councilmen McElroy, Caulkins, Foster, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. Councilwoman Stockard voted nay. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2009-13, amending Planned Development for property located at 1800 East Lake Shore Drive on petition of Adam Cumbo, Chief Financial Officer, St. Mary's Hospital, was presented.

Councilman Foster moved the ordinance do pass; seconded by Councilman Caulkins, and on call of the roll, Councilmen McElroy, Stockard, Caulkins, Foster, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2009-14, rezoning property located at 3635 East U. S. Route 36 from B-2 Commercial District to PD Planned Development District on petition of LaVelle Hunt, was presented.

Councilman Caulkins moved the ordinance do pass; seconded by Councilman Foster.

Wendy Morthland, Corporation Counsel, and Phil Cochran, Cochran Engineering, responded to Council's questions stating that the topic of fencing and barb wire is not new to Council and the importance of the razor wire to protect what will be kept on site and there were no objectors in attendance at the Plan Commission meeting; and no amendment to the ordinance is required.

Robert Maulding reminded Council of his objection when this item was initially considered by City Council because of the authority given to the Assistant City Manager. Mr. Maulding urged the Council to discuss the topic of barb wire at a future study session.

Mark Scranton urged Council support stating the project is very unique and has the potential to draw people to the car museum and Mr. Hunt has plans to hold summer auctions at the site. Roger Lester, engineer from Tate & Lyle, urged Council support adding he shares the dreams of others who love Chevy automobiles.

Following discussion, Councilmen McElroy, Stockard, Caulkins, Foster, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Mayor Carrigan called for Consent Calendar Items A through I and asked if any Member of Council wished to remove an item from Consent Calendar. Item A through I were approved by Omnibus Vote.

Councilwoman Stockard moved that Consent Calendar Items A through I be approved by Omnibus Vote; seconded by Councilman McElroy, and on call of the roll, Councilmen McElroy, Stockard, Caulkins, Foster, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

- A. Receiving and filing the minutes of the City Plan Commission meeting of February 5, 2009; the Civil Service Commission meeting of February 3, 2009; the Human Relations Commission meeting of December 11, 2008; the Historical and Architectural Sites Commission meeting of January 21, 2009; the Decatur Civic Center Authority Board meeting of January 21, 2009; and the Electrical Commission meeting of January 7, 2009.
- B. Resolution R2009-28 accepting Bid of Sloan Implement Company for one John Deere 997Z Trak Zero Turning Radius Mower for Lake Division.

- C. Resolution R2009-29 placing the 2006 International Residential Code on File for Public Inspection.
- D. Resolution R2009-30 authorizing Annual Support and License Agreement Renewal with Tyler Technologies for MUNIS Software.
- E. Resolution R2009-31 authorizing MUNIS Operating System and Database Administration Support Agreement Renewal with Tyler Technologies.
- F. Resolution R2009-32 authorizing Database Maintenance Agreement Renewal with IBM Corporation.
- G. Resolution R2009-33 authorizing License and Support Services Renewal with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) for Geographic Information System.
- H. Receiving and Filing Final Plat for Mueller Heights Second Addition.
- I. Receiving and Filing City of Decatur Official Zoning Map.

This being the time set for Other Business, Councilman Caulkins commented on the "Brothers at War" film which opens in Decatur on Friday, March 27, and urged the community support this event.

This being the time set for Appearance of Citizens, Robert Maulding urged the Council ban the use of barb wire on fences in the city. Matthew Jackson commented that the Council approved several items under the Consent Calendar of significant expenditure without discussion.

Councilwoman Stockard moved the Council recess to Study Session for the purpose of a discussion regarding Responsible Bidder Proposal and a review of the City Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 / 2010; seconded by Councilman McElroy, and on call of the roll, Councilmen McElroy, Stockard, Caulkins, Foster, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Councilman Patrick S. Laegeler entered the meeting room during the Study Session discussion on Responsible Bidder.

The first item of business was a discussion regarding a Responsible Bidder Proposal. Mike Matejka, Laborers' International Union of North America, showed a brief film on responsible bidder. Mr. Matejka stated the City Council can define responsible but the importance of responsible bidder proposal is the apprenticeship. City Council was told that the construction industry trains people at its own expense and no taxpayer dollars are used towards apprenticeship training. Through apprenticeship training opportunities exist for these individuals that otherwise might not be available. EEOC can be included in language as a requirement.

Mr. Matejka responded to Council's questions stating that the apprenticeship training process is an open process and applicants must pass a test before proceeding to the interview process; responsible bidder proposal applies to city projects and a private homeowner must comply with city building inspections.

Bob Mann commented on the good record with the State of Illinois, minimum qualifications, how retired laborers bring in new apprentices, and one is not allowed to ask about race.

Doug Claypool, representing the Coalition for a Fair and Safe Workplace, commented on his personal experience in the local painter program and how he learned to market himself. Mr. Claypool commented on his time as a community volunteer and that this topic is not a union / non-union issue but a safety issue. Mr. Claypool stated that contractors pay towards the apprentice program.

Rob Winchester, President and CEO of Association of Builders and Contractors, remarked on the downside of the Responsible Bidder proposal. Mr. Winchester remarked that this proposal will eliminate all competition, compliance concerns, and that with the thousands of taxing bodies only a handful have adopted this proposal. Mr. Winchester reminded Council that this is about competition and fairness for the taxpayers. Mr. Winchester urged the Council to vote against this item or allow him to assist with the final language.

Mr. Winchester responded to Council's questions stating that any amount exceeding \$500,000.00 is suitable and the threshold amount used in Springfield and he will forward the names of those companies his firm represents.

David Binder, past president of the Institute of Construction Education, stated the apprentice program is not a signatory union, the problem comes in how language is stipulated and in meeting Department of Labor requirements.

Steve Horve, President of Steve Horve Builders and Contractors, informed Council of his work in building homes and his decision to change to light commercial construction. Staff at Horve Builders and Contractors includes such positions as accountant and project estimator and the firm is bonded and insured. Mr. Horve commented that a vote for this proposal is wrong and will freeze out contractors who have built up their businesses. Mr. Horve remarked that his firm is competitive and that his firm meets all the criteria in the responsible bidder outline.

Tom Gibson commented on training requirements of the plumbers and pipefitters and the number of schools across the country and the amount of money spent on training.

Members of Council commented on the number of taxing bodies who have adopted this proposal in the Decatur and Springfield area; to include EEO language in the proposed document and to find a reasonable dollar threshold; whether the proposed document should be adopted during these difficult economic times because it will exclude some firms who are responsible bidders; in principle, if the city is doing a good job on its bid specifications then is there a need for the proposed document as it would only eliminate competition; and because Council was informed this proposal is not a union / non-union issue the language must be amenable to both parties.

City Manager McCrady responded to Council's questions stating that county government is different than city government and Sangamon County never felt any impact as a result of responsible bidder ordinance.

No formal action was taken.

The final item of business was a Review of the City Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 / 2010. City Manager McCrady provided opening remarks to the proposed city budget. Mr. McCrady informed Council that the budget is balanced with no new taxes or fees but a deficit remains. The Council was informed of the Manager's plan to start a "27th Pay Fund" which will help solve some of the budget deficit. Some other measures the City Manager elected to do include cutting conference and travel across the board, to offer a voluntary severance package in an effort for department to hire staff at a lower salary and for the Manager as a means to reorganize city government. The purpose in offering the voluntary severance package rather than early retirement is voluntary severance can be offered to all city employees and not a particular group based on age or years of service. On Monday, March 30, the Council will receive feedback from those outside agencies which receive city funding.

Mr. McCrady responded to Council's questions stating that if voluntary severance is offered a department director at his or her discretion could either eliminate or spread work load to other personnel; staff is looking at other methods to fund pension; some money was moved relating to fuel costs; information about the voluntary severance package will be out in the next four to six week period; does not believe that voluntary severance will lose upper level staff; and no tax increase is proposed at all in this budget.

No formal action was taken.

This being the time set for Other Business, Councilwoman Stockard commented that she will be in attendance on Saturday, March 21, but will have to leave early for another commitment. Councilman Caulkins commented on how inexpensive the city's parking rates are and whether to increase.

This being the time set for Appearance of Citizens, John Phillips commented on the budget and cautioned staff about voluntary severance.

Councilwoman Stockard moved the Council recess to Closed, Executive Session for the purpose of a Discussion regarding Collective Negotiating Matters and the Setting of a Price for Sale or Lease of Property owned by the Public Body; seconded by Councilman Caulkins, and on call of the roll, Councilmen McElroy, Stockard, Caulkins, Foster, Laegeler, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Following Closed Session the meeting was reopened to the public.

There being no further business, Councilman Laegeler moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilman Foster, and on call of the roll, Councilmen McElroy, Stockard, Caulkins, Foster, Laegeler, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

CITY CLERK

Approved: _____

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009

On Saturday, March 28, 2009, the City Council of the City of Decatur, Illinois, met in Study Session at 8:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, One Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, Illinois. Mayor Michael T. Carrigan presided; together with him being Councilmen Dan Caulkins, Larry W. Foster, Mike McElroy, and Betsy Stockard. Councilmen Shad L. Edwards and Patrick S. Laegeler were absent. Five members were present and two were absent. Mayor Carrigan declared a quorum present.

City Manager Ryan P. McCrady attended the meeting.

Mayor Carrigan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilwoman Stockard moved that the Council recess to Study Session for the purpose of a Review of the City Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 / 2010 Engineering and Infrastructure Department and Administrative Departments; seconded by Councilman McElroy, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Caulkins, Foster, McElroy, Stockard, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

The only item of business was a review of the City Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 / 2010. City Manager Ryan McCrady provided opening remarks emphasizing the number of projects scheduled for next fiscal year without an increase in current taxes. City Council heard comments from Rick Marley, Director of Engineering and Infrastructure Department. Mr. Marley first introduced that the name of the department will change in the near future to the Department of Public Works. The budget for the Municipal Services Division includes three sections and two staff positions within the Division will be eliminated. Although Council learned how these staff reductions will impact the division in total productive time, they also heard about the core services which must be continued. The city's Fleet Equipment includes 279 units of equipment and the city has a policy relative to "defined life cycle" and staff plans to revisit this policy in relation to amortization. Council also learned that the city's software program used to track equipment costs is over 16 years old and staff will need to purchase more current software in the near future. The city's Engineering Division currently has three (3) vacant engineering positions and staff plans to fill two (2) of the three (3) positions. One engineering position will be downgraded to a civil engineer at a cost savings to the city. Staff reviewed with Council a draft of the Capital Improvement Plan. The Plan is a spending plan which may see revisions but must remain within the dollar amount. Mr. Marley commented on areas such as electronic document imaging, fire and police training tower, energy performance contracting, parking system, storm sewers, and the storm drainage plan, etc. Mr. Marley introduced a new program called Microsurfacing which staff will consider this year as part of its road maintenance program. Staff plans to report on the Downtown Truck Route Study at a future Council meeting. Another program under consideration is a cost share program with homeowners who suffer basement flooding in certain areas of the city.

City Manager McCrady and Mr. Marley responded to Council's questions stating that city staff will speak with the Department of Corrections regarding whether inmates can assist with some work; city has a contract with Macon Resources for some city beautification efforts; city mowing and some 72 hour cleanup work may be outsourced to a contractor or, in the case of the 72 hour cleanup to a demolition contractor; what, if any, impact these considerations might have on the bargaining contracts; DUATS received \$2.7 million in stimulus money and the group will vote on how to allocate those dollars to the various representative groups; not likely that Amtrak will be funded because all projects must be on the TIP list; cost to homeowner interested in participating in the cost share program for basement flooding might range from \$5,000 to \$6,000 depending on the complexity and the cost share proposal is the city paying ½ of the cost and both the property owner and Sanitary District paying ¼ of the cost; regarding the Sunset Avenue flooding issue the problem is that many of the back yards are not inside the city limits and many homeowners are unwilling to annex; and some downtown traffic lights are timed.

Jerry Bauer, Assistant City Manager of Operations, provided an overview of the city's Administrative Departments and briefly commented on the city's Executive and Looking for Lincoln budgets. Mr. Bauer highlighted the activities of the four divisions within the Management Services Department including City Clerk, Human Resources, MIS, and Mass Transit. The City Clerk prepared no less and 48 City Council ordinances and resolutions, issued at least 18 temporary liquor licenses, conducted 67 searches of official City records, and prepared agendas, packets and minutes for a total of 23 City Council meetings. Additionally, the division conducted the annual liquor renewal process for all licensed establishments and managed the candidates' filing process for the upcoming municipal election as well as assisting the City Council during the hiring process for the current city manager. The Human Resources Division completed the testing and hiring process for 47 new employees, provided 39 training and orientation programs for employees, initiated 16 new charges of unlawful discrimination for citizens; conducted 4 internal investigations of employee misconduct; and administered the city's IMRF and ICMA retirement programs. Additionally, the Division worked with the Civil Service Commission and Police administration to develop a new Commission rule that would allow lateral entry of police officers from other jurisdictions. The MIS Division's primary responsibility is for the daily care and maintenance of the city's numerous and varied computer hardware and software systems. Additionally, the staff was instrumental in launching *Decatur Digital Atlas* the city's GIS program now available on the website. The Mass Transit Division is largely dedicated to the capture of federal and state grants and the payment of contractual services to operate the city's bus and para-transit services. Additionally, the city's Mass Transit Administrator worked with the transit management company to ensure that regular and dependable service was provided to Decatur citizens.

City Manager McCrady and Mr. Bauer responded to Council's questions stating that the Director of Lincoln Heritage will be paid through 2010 and the 2% tax is now permanent and will be placed in the city's General Fund; outside legal counsel services are paid from the non-departmental budget and both the City Manager and Corporation Counsel determine whether outside counsel should be sought and the budget is less this year than in the past two years; and the city does not have any firm on retainer with the exception of the firm used for work compensation issues.

Mass Transit Administrator Paul McChancy responded to Council's questions stating that advertising is paid for either by the city or is free; there is not a specific line item for transit shelters and these are done on an as-needed basis; it is too soon to tell ridership statistics for the route to the relocated Decatur Township facility; the recent trolley study recommended that the Millikin trolley route be eliminated; transit route maps are available at the Severns Transit facility; staff is considering what is currently done in Springfield relative to late transit operations but presently Decatur services terminates at 7:15 p.m.; staff saw a 150% increase when the senior free rider program was offered; and, it is up to Greyhound to change their location.

This being the time set for Other Business, Councilwoman Stockard wished to thank the City Clerk and the Legal Department for their work done during the Electoral Board process and how they conducted themselves in a very professional manner during the process. City Manager McCrady reminded Council of their next meeting on Monday, March 30, at 5:30 p.m.

This being the time set for Appearance of Citizens, no one indicated they wished to address Council.

There being no further business, Councilwoman Stockard moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilman McElroy, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Caulkins, Foster, McElroy, Stockard, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

CITY CLERK

Approved: _____

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009

On Monday, March 30, 2009, the City Council of the City of Decatur, Illinois, met in Regular Meeting and Study Session at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, One Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, Illinois. Mayor Michael T. Carrigan presided; together with him being Councilmen Dan Caulkins, Larry W. Foster, Mike McElroy, and Betsy Stockard. Councilmen Shad L. Edwards and Patrick S. Laegeler were absent. Five members were present and two were absent. Mayor Carrigan declared a quorum present.

City Manager Ryan P. McCrady attended the meeting.

Mayor Carrigan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the meeting of March 21 and March 23, 2009, were presented. Councilwoman Stockard moved the minutes be approved as written; seconded by Councilman Foster, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Caulkins, Foster, McElroy, Stockard, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Mayor Carrigan called for New Business.

Resolution R2009-34, authorizing Agreement with the Decatur Metropolitan Exposition, Auditorium and Office Building Authority (Decatur Civic Center) regarding Participation in City Health Insurance Program, was presented.

Councilman Foster moved the resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman McElroy.

City Manager McCrady responded to Council's questions stating that city staff has done what they can do to determine a risk history; the city will incur risk regardless because of current arrangement for city to pay any deficit of the Civic Center; and the number of potential participants is less than 10.

Upon call of the roll, Councilmen Caulkins, Foster, McElroy, Stockard, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Resolution R2009-35, accepting Bid of Mid-States Transmission Service, Inc. for Transmission Overhaul, Decatur Public Transit System, was presented.

Councilman Foster moved the resolution do pass; seconded by Councilman McElroy, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Caulkins, Foster, McElroy, Stockard, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

This being the time set for Other Business, Councilman Foster wished to clarify comments made by him and which appeared in the March 29th issue of the *Herald and Review*. Councilman Foster stated that at a recent fundraiser he commented on the unusual upcoming city

election and the difference in philosophy of candidates regarding government form. Councilman Foster remarked that some of his clients are union members and the work he has done with many of these good people, particularly during the remodel of the Salvation Army facility. It is his opinion that good people are knowledgeable and show respect and that his entire comments that evening were not included in the article. Councilwoman Stockard wanted clarification on the abandoned vehicle ordinance passed several years ago because of her concern regarding a vehicle located on Moundford Court which has flat tires, broken windows, and neighborhood children in the vicinity. City Manager McCrady replied that the premise has a long history and the property owner is not willing to sell. Corporation Counsel Wendy Morthland remarked that Council expanded the language relative to vehicles left on public streets and vehicles left on private property pose a different set of circumstances and staff has limited authority due to a case in Tazwell County. Councilman Caulkins stated the Council is a representative body at large and he was personally offended by quotes made by Councilman Foster and those statements about good people and bad people and we want to have people get involved without degradation.

This being the time set for Appearance of Citizens, Robert Maulding commented that he spoke with the City Manager and Police Chief about his neighborhood concerns and understands the city will do what it can and that he may have not initially communicated his concerns very well. Bill Francisco, Doug Claypool, Jeff Bigelow, DeAngelo Wheeler, Dale Cooper, Jeff Perkins, Steve Daniels, Holly Mowry, Terri Delbridge, and John Phillips, remarked on comments made by Councilman Foster stating that the good people and bad people all pay taxes and all work hard and such statements only tear the community apart; offended by the comments and the nature of the upcoming election; desire an honest government and one that unites people; Foster's opposition to changing the form of government; the only bad vote is the individual that chooses not to vote; what is the definition of a good person and a bad person; a reminder that changing the form of government is not on the ballot; belief that he is out of touch with the community; and whether the comments are a symptom of a bigger problem. Cheryl Bradley stated that she was in attendance when Councilman Foster made his comments and that only a portion of what he said was printed. Ms. Bradley stated that Mr. Foster also remarked that the unions are an important fabric of our community.

Councilman Caulkins moved the Council recess to Study Session for the purpose of a Discussion regarding the City Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 / 2010; seconded by Councilwoman Stockard, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Caulkins, Foster, McElroy, Stockard, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

The only item of business was a discussion regarding the City Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 / 2010. City Manager Ryan McCrady provided opening comments and informed Council that representatives of various agencies receiving city funds were in attendance to make comments. Kathy Sorensen, Co-Chair of the Decatur Sister Cities Committee, urged the Council reconsider funding Sister Cities and commented on the importance of student exchanges, how educational these exchanges are for the students, student exchanges have occurred annually since the early 90s, the cross section of students sent to represent Decatur, and that 90% of the Sister Cities budget is spent on student exchanges. The Committee consists of all volunteer staff with no office space. Ms. Sorensen also mentioned the

committee's theme which is "Peace Through People" and commented on the number of host families involved and the adult delegations.

Greg Florian, Vice President of Finance at Richland Community College and a representative of Brush College LLC, informed Council that Progress City is requesting funding assistance for the first time. Mr. Florian reminded Council of the community's efforts in building this site, which hosts the Farm Progress show every other year, its potential for economic development and other activities held at this location (car dealer tent sale). The purpose of the funding request will be used towards maintaining the site in good condition.

Mr. Florian responded to Council's questions stating that the Decatur Farm Progress site will not be permanent because of its other site located in Iowa; the agreement to host Farm Progress is through 2013 but LLC representatives hope to extend that contract to 2023; the funding request amount is \$50,000.00 to assist with operations; roads within Progress City site were done with State money and the city extended the water main.

Teena Zindel-McWilliams, representing City Centre Decatur (formerly the Downtown Decatur Council), commented on their long standing presence in Decatur, their interest in returning their offices to the Transfer House, and the organizations structures, goals, and activities (e.g., Farmers Market, Cruisin' Downtown, Christmas Walk). Ms. Zindel-McWilliams urged Council support because it allows the organization to continue to meet the needs of downtown merchants.

City Manager McCrady responded to Council's question stating that his recommendation is to reduce their funding level by \$25,000.00 and Ms. Zindel-McWilliams responded the organization has restructured its membership fees and have researched various grant opportunities.

Denene Wilmeth, Executive Director of the Decatur Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, remarked that the Bureau works closely with those individuals who addressed Council this evening. Ms. Wilmeth commented on the hotel / motel tax and the amount raised last year and suggested a tourism plan be considered for the Decatur and Macon County area.

City Manager McCrady informed the City Council of correspondence received from Craig Coil of the Economic Development Corporation accepting the manager's proposal to reduce their funding by \$40,000.00 due to the current economic climate.

City Manager McCrady responded to Council's question stating that he first learned of the Progress City funding request when he met with representatives earlier and suggested they attend tonight's meeting.

Members of City Council wanted to discuss the needs and priorities of the Police Department before addressing the funding requests of outside agencies. Members commented on the purchases made by the Department for items such as paper and fuel which should be made from the General Fund but are from the Drug Fund, funding which should be used to eradicate this problem. City Manager McCrady and Police Chief Jim Anderson suggested an amount of

\$65,000.00 for these items and the Department's training budget was cut by \$30,000.00. City Manager McCrady remarked that based on these two estimates that there is some "wiggle" room to increase the Police Department budget by \$95,000.00. City Manager McCrady and Police Chief Anderson responded to Council's questions stating that money received annually from drug raids, etc. amounts to about one-quarter million annually and the manager's recommended budget does not include economic stimulus money; staff will look at drainage issues on Sunset but some of the area is outside the city limits; and funding for Paragon has been eliminated.

Following Council's discussion and informal poll regarding outside agencies, a majority of Council indicated their support to fund the Decatur Sister Cities Committee at a \$15,000.00 level, no funding for Progress City, funding level amount for the City Centre Decatur, Economic Development Corporation, and the Decatur Area Convention and Visitors Bureau will remain at the level recommended by the City Manager.

City Manager McCrady informed the Council of his intentions to propose a performance contractor program, a voluntary severance package, and urged the citizens to focus on the \$26 million in projects the city will perform next year and the budget for FY 2009 / 2010 is balanced with no new or increase in taxes.

No formal action was taken.

There being no further business, Councilman McElroy moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilwoman Stockard, and on call of the roll, Councilmen Caulkins, Foster, McElroy, Stockard, and Mayor Carrigan voted aye. The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

CITY CLERK

Approved: _____