

MINUTES

DECATUR CITY COMMISSION

Organizational Meeting
January 4, 2010
City Hall: 7:30 p.m.

City Manager Merriss called the Organizational Meeting of the Decatur City Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2010.

PRESENT: Commissioners Boykin, Cunningham, Floyd, and Garrett; and, City Manager Merriss.

ABSENT: Commissioner Baskett

OATH OF OFFICE.

Attorney Marti Fessenden administered the oath of office to Commissioner Garrett.

City Attorney Bryan Downs administered the oath of office to Commissioner Boykin.

ELECTION OF MAYOR/CHAIR FOR 2010.

By nomination of Commissioner Cunningham, second by Commissioner Boykin and all present voting "aye", Commissioner Floyd was elected Mayor/Chair for 2010.

City Manager Merriss transferred the chair to Mayor Floyd.

Mayor Floyd thanked members of the City Commission for electing him as Mayor for a 12th year. He indicated it was an honor to serve the community and to work with the other members of the City Commission.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM/VICE CHAIR FOR 2010.

By nomination of Commissioner Cunningham, second by Commissioner Boykin and all present voting "aye", Commissioner Baskett was elected Mayor pro tem/Vice Chair for 2010.

MINUTES of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of December 21, 2009 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Boykin, second by Commissioner Cunningham, and all present voting "aye".

PRESENTATION TO AL BASTIN.

Decatur Housing Authority (DHA) Executive Director Paul Pierce stated that Al Bastin was appointed to the DHA Board by former Mayor Wiley Ansley in January 1974

and that Mr. Bastin had been the longest serving commissioner in the DHA's 72 year history, having served 18 of those years as chair of the board.

Mayor Floyd thanked Mr. Bastin for all of his service to the DHA and to the City of Decatur. Mayor Floyd proclaimed January 8, 2010 as "Al Bastin Day" for his service on the DHA Board.

Mr. Bastin stated that it was a pleasure living in such a wonderful city.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.

There were no comments from the public.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY ATTORNEY.

City Manager Merriss recommended that the City Commission authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the firm of Wilson, Morton & Downs for legal services, including appointing Bryan Downs as City Attorney. Mr. Downs had indicated that he was willing to serve.

On a motion by Commissioner Boykin, second by Commissioner Garrett, and all present voting "aye", execution of the agreement was authorized

APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES.

On a motion by Commissioner Garrett, second by Commissioner Boykin, and all present voting "aye", the City Commission reappointed Berryl A. Anderson, Edward Carrierre, Robert Leitch and Rhathelia Stroud as Municipal Court Judges and Lindsey R. M. Jones and Andrew T. Rogers as Substitute Municipal Judges.

Mayor Floyd thanked Judges Anderson, Carrierre, Leitch, Stroud, Jones and Rogers for their service and their willingness to serve to the City of Decatur.

CITY MANAGER'S CONTRACT RENEWAL.

On a motion by Commissioner Cunningham, second by Commissioner Boykin, and all present voting "aye", the City Commission approved an agreement for employment services for the period December 28, 2009 to January 2, 2012 with City Manager Peggy Merriss.

REQUESTS AND PETITIONS.

There were no other requests or petitions.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS.

Mayor Floyd read the Zoning Board of Appeals agenda for January 11, 2010.

Mayor Floyd stated that the Decatur Housing Authority Board but that it was practice to ask for the City Commission to confirm his recommendation.

On a motion by Commissioner Boykin, second by Commissioner Cunningham, and all present voting “aye”, Mary Alice Kemp was appointed to the Housing Authority Board to fill Al Bastin’s unexpired term. .

Deputy City Manager Hugh Saxon requested that the City Commission establish a public hearing on February 1, 2010 authorizing the removal of a dangerous tree at the rear of the property at 743 West Howard Avenue. Mr. Saxon stated that the tree was located on a vacant lot that had been illegally subdivided and that no response had been received from the property owner.

In response to a question from Mayor Floyd, Mr. Saxon stated that rear section of the lot had been reserved from sale and that it did not meet single family zoning standards. Mr. Saxon stated that the property owner was two years arrear in tax payments.

On a motion by Commissioner Boykin, second by Commissioner Garrett, and all present voting “aye”, the public hearing was established for February 1, 2010.

City Manager Merriss stated that the City Commission had been invited to attend the January meeting of the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association on January 25, 2010.

City Manager Merriss distributed copies of the ICMA case study on Decatur’s efforts to support healthy and active living.

Commissioner Garrett stated that this year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Project work days would be January 16 – 18, 2010 and that there were plenty of volunteer spots still available.

Commissioner Garrett stated that she was grateful for the support during her campaign and thanked her friends and neighbors for attending her first meeting.

Commissioner Boykin congratulated Mayor Floyd and Mayor pro tem Baskett on their reelection as Chair and Vice Chair for 2010 and welcomed Commissioner Garrett to the City Commission.

Commissioner Cunningham commended Mr. Bastin for his service on the DHA Board and stated she was excited to be able to appoint Ms. Kemp to his vacant seat.

Commissioner Cunningham thanked City Manager Merriss for everything she does and has done.

Mayor Floyd offered thanks to the community and fellow Commissioners for their vote of confidence in his abilities to lead the City.

Mayor Floyd commended Mr. Bastin for his service and congratulated Commissioner Boykin on his reelection and Commissioner Garrett on her election.

Mayor Floyd stated that City Manager Merriss had done an outstanding job in her role as City Manager.

City Manager Merriss stated that it was a pleasure working with such an outstanding group of elected officials and that she what she does would not be possible without the excellent staff and employees of the City of Decatur.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Peggy Merriss
Acting City Clerk