



CITY OF DECATUR ILLINOIS

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Highlights of City Council budget study session #2

Decatur, IL – The Decatur City Council continued its review of the 2024 proposed City budget during a study session on Wednesday night. This was a special meeting and no action was taken.

These individual budgets and topics were covered: IT, Transportation Services, and Public Works – water operations, storm & sanitary sewer, and other capital projects. Council also discussed additional revenue options for 2024. Here are some highlights of the discussions:

City Council discussed new ways to generate revenue in 2024 and beyond. A streaming tax could be implemented, which could average \$3 per month per household that has streaming services. Council also discussed adding a storage facility fee of \$2 per month per unit. And a third idea was adding a business license process that could require an annual application fee between \$10 and \$50 from each business operating in Decatur. These additions would have to be voted on individually at future Council meetings and have not been approved. As for the property tax levy, Council members were split. A 3 percent increase would be similar to last year's action, which kept the levy essentially flat. Council will also consider a 5 percent increase. They will discuss and set the levy at a future meeting in 2023.

During the Public Works discussion, Council learned of proposed projects to support industrial growth in the northeast quadrant of Decatur. A new sanitary sewer pump station has been in the works to support developments already announced – Innovafeed, LG Chem, Broadwing power plant – however, Council will have to consider scaling up the capacity of this station if they want to attract even further development. There are also many projects planned that will increase the City's water supply while also maintaining current infrastructure.

A lot of improvement continues in the Transportation Services Department. Council learned of plans to transform the Transit Campus to support a transition to an all-electric fleet of vehicles. The campus could also be used for some municipal service functions and support other City departments. Council members were excited to hear results from the final bus route analysis coming soon, and the possible addition of micro-transit services, which would be similar to ride-sharing such as Uber or Lyft.

The City Manager's proposal is a balanced budget. Total expenditures in the recommended budget, excluding interfund transfers, are \$265.3 million for 2024.

The budget will now be revised based on the Council's suggested amendments. Next it will be submitted for a public hearing and community input phase. The Council can again amend the budget to reflect public feedback before taking any final votes.

To review the entire proposed budget, visit www.decaluril.gov/departments/finance/city-budget/

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