

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Larry Meyers, Geneva Hunt, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters and Kenny Hooten.

President Gauck called the meeting to order.

Auditor Janet Chadwell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

After reviewing the June 16th meeting minutes- Mr Hooten moved to approve the minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes are approved.

Community Corrections Director Mark Cripe told Council members the **State** has approved spending the \$17,000 left in 2014-2015 fiscal budget on electronic security locks in his wing of the **Sheriff's Department**. On July 1st, beginning of their 2015-2016 fiscal year, additional requests were approved by the **State**: \$15,000 for a part-time field officer; \$14,000 for a part-time case worker- Deb Cruser; \$1,400 for a stun gun and \$1,000 for a body camera. As a formality Mr Cripe needs **Council** approval for the **Auditor's office** to process the payment of these additional claims. Mr Owens moved to approve the additional request, Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Redevelopment Commission President Don Schilling presented the annual report: \$3.1 million in revenues received in 2014; of which \$2.4 million paid on the bonds; \$299,000 paid local share of replacing Bridge #2 on Old Highway 421; and \$295,000 (about half of the costs) was spent on the software for the joint central dispatch center- will pay the remaining half of the costs in 2015; \$91,000 paid for the City's new water intake system at the Flat Rock River- more to pay in 2015. Approximately \$8,500 in legal fees also was paid in 2014. Mr Schilling did submit the **Receipt for Report of Redevelopment Commission** to Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley on July 23, 2015.

County Prosecutor Nathan Harter gave some "background" information on his 2016 Budget Requests. Upon taking office, Mr Harter found two drawers full of "untouched police reports" of which he has now reviewed and is filing cases. He feels his office needs to be aggressive in filing cases; so the workload will be much more than the five current attorneys could handle. He has submitted a proposed budget which includes adding one and a half attorneys plus an investigator. He asks the County to make a major investment in personnel.

Children's Advocacy Center of SE IN Director Sara Brichto has spoken to the County Commissioners who asked her to speak to the **County Council** to request funding in 2016. She explained the **CAC's** job is to get accurate information from children who are victims/witnesses of various crimes. The children are interviewed as few times as possible hoping to spare them the trauma of multiple interviews from various law enforcement agencies- any information is shared with all law enforcement. Ms Brichto requested \$10,000 in 2016 funding and Mr Harter told Council members they need to make an ongoing commitment.

Animal Control Warden Laura Johnston asked Council members for "no cuts" to the part-time appropriation in her 2016 Budget as those monies pay for a person to "cover" times when full-time personnel are unavailable. Ms Johnston stated the Shelter may start accepting 'out of county' animals and charge a fee to help offset expenses. The Shelter will no longer assist the Sheriff's Department on "dog or animal" calls due to a reduced 2015 budget.

County Assessor Dorene Greiwe presented details of ongoing litigation on real estate appeals which is costing legal fees for her office. Ms Greiwe has filed the proper forms to request \$30,000 in additional monies in the **Reassessment Fund (1187)**. Mr Peters moved to approve the request and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr Meyers moved to approve the requests for transfer of funds for various departments. Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next Council meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on September 15, 2015; the 2016 Budgets' Public Hearing will also be held on this date.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Peters moved to adjourn and Mr Hooten seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____