

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024

Present: Danny Peters, Bill Metz, Melanie Nobbe, Ashley Hungate, Deanna Burkart, Kenny Hooten and Ernie Gauck.

President Peters welcomed everyone to the Council's April 16th meeting; he then asked Ernie Gauck to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(Meeting minutes and agendas are emailed to Council members the Friday before their Tuesday meeting)

Mr Peters announced the March minutes stated a public hearing set for today for reducing the Special Purpose Jail Tax Rate has been rescheduled to the May 21st meeting. Mr Metz made a motion to approve the March 19th meeting minutes and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich and Greensburg's Director of Public Projects Zach Wirrig presented parking options at **Rebekah Park** since the current 40 parking spaces aren't enough to accommodate the demands/needs. Mr Wirrig expects the demand for parking to increase once Greensburg's walking trail project is completed, but that grant did not include funds to pay for expanded parking. Mr Wirrig did say whatever funding is available if the project comes in under budget may be used toward the parking. The Commissioners elected to go with the 79-parking spaces option with a cost of \$299,650 for Greensburg's contract letting in October or November. The expansion of the restrooms is included in the design of the area. Council agreed additional parking is definitely needed. Mr Wirrig told Council the City's standards does not allow gravel parking within the Greensburg City limits. He will proceed with the 79-parking space option.

Court Services Director Matt Hoeing and Director of Community Corrections Abby Harry shared updates on the Court Services programs. Ms Harry told Council her office is required to do 'pre-trial risk assessments' for all of those charged with anything from C Misdemeanors to Murder. In the first 3 months of this year her office has done 144 risk assessments. In March they were supervising 51 clients in post disposition plus 15 transfers out of county via courtesy supervision with Shelby or Rush County. They have 2 clients on pre-trial, 7 participants in the Wellness Court with 1 pending, 1 client on day reporting, 5 clients in the Community Transitional Program, 5 clients on Work Release and 170 pending monitoring cases. Court Services, in their supervision capacity, has saved the County by not having these clients in jail: in 2022 - \$743,000; 2023 - \$495,000 and 2024 – January-\$30,000, February-\$28,000 and March-\$34,000. Mr Hoeing told Council members his budget may support the fringe benefits for his employees in 2024, but he may be coming to them at budget time for help in 2025.

Chris Ramey, President of the Greensburg-Decatur County Animal Shelter Board, told Council members he's been the grant writer for the shelter since April, 2023 and he, along with the Shelter's Director and staff, has brought in about \$120,000 in small grants. The current 2400 square foot building plus the 384 square foot outdoor kennel area doesn't offer enough space for someone to 'meet an animal' they're considering adopting. The **Friends of Decatur County Animal Shelter** met to begin working on a capital campaign to fund a new shelter building. They are working on corporate level grants and other grants which do have a time restriction to use those funds once awarded. This capital campaign may be a 2, 3 or 5-year project as the building size would be up to the Commissioners.

Mr Hooten moved to approve all transfer requests and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate made a motion to approve the **ARPA Addendum #28 for \$30,000** for financial consultants and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Metz moved to approve the \$4000 additional for Highway office supplies and furniture for the new facility and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 -- 0.

There will be 2 ordinances presented at the Council’s May meeting: one to lower the Special Purpose Jail Tax rate and another to separate investments per what fund monies are invested from.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk told Council he’s having issues hiring employees due to not many applicants having the CDL license or can’t afford to get the CDL license.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins told Council the **Accelerate Rural Indiana Region** (Shelby County, Rush County, Decatur County, Shelbyville, Rushville, Batesville and Greensburg) was a \$30,000,000 grant from the READI 2.0. The IEDC will come down to help the ARI decide which submitted projects to fund.

Dorene Greiwe shared an invitation from the **Speranza House** to be held on May 5th beginning at 5:00 pm, at the Hitching Post as a “Thank you” for the community’s support.

The next Council meeting will be May 21st, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse, Room 106.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Hooten made a motion to adjourn and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Council’s regular meeting is adjourned.

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____