

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

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

President Peters opened the Council's December 17th meeting; he then asked Melanie Nobbe to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mrs Hungate made a motion to approve the November 19th meeting minutes as amended and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Todd Houk, Highway Superintendent, presented the grant proposal for the **Community Crossings Grant 2025-1** and asked Council for approval. Decatur County is eligible for \$1.5 million from CCMG with a local match of \$500,000. This grant will be used to chip and seal between 115 and 120 miles of road. Mr Metz moved to approve the grant proposal and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Board of Health Director Sean Durbin presented the **\$517,794.24 Health First Indiana** budget which was submitted and approved by the **State Department of Health**. Mr Durbin told Council this budget includes payroll expenses, equipment to serve the community and he hopes to purchase a van to replace the current 13-year-old one. \$125,599.66 of this budget has been allocated to grants to community partners. Mr Hooten moved to approve the HFI budget and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

County Clerk Janet Howell told Council she had advertised for a part-time position in her office but most of those responding wanted/needed full-time. She asked Council for the full-time deputy position back due mainly to added responsibilities/requirements for caseloads for 3 Courts, Child Support and Jury responsibilities- questionnaires and bailiff duties. Council wished she would have asked for this at budget time. Mrs Hungate asked Mrs Howell to bring the numbers for the increased workload to Council's January meeting and Council will ponder her request until then.

Recreation/Sports Director Rob DeHoff congratulated **Parks and Rec Director Teres Kovacich** on completing her 40th year as a Parks Department employee. He shared some updates on the Sports Complex: Brad Schutte has been contracted to work on the back 4 ball diamonds – moving dirt, gravel, resodding some areas – which the **RDC** is funding up to \$400,000. The work is ahead of schedule on the front 4 diamonds, with the turf scheduled to be delivered January 6th, 2025. He has 14 Tournaments officially confirmed, beginning in April through July and 1 in October. Phases 1, 2A and 2B are expected to cost around \$1.3 - \$1.4 million; Phase 3 will be adding turf to the back 4 diamonds. Some of the RDC funding will go for adding a concession stand, an inclusion trail linking the parking lots, restrooms, paving the gravel parking lot and he is waiting on estimates on these. Mr DeHoff said there are diamonds for our youth to play on and Mrs Kovacich said they are working to reorganize the leagues and put those back under the Parks Department.

Circuit Court Tim Day told Council members he would like to hire a second Juvenile Probation Officer and the Court has been awarded a **\$73,000 grant from the ICJI** (Indiana Criminal Justice Institute). He is ready to bring the part-time program person, Gracie Maxwell, on full-time. The salary for a first-year probation officer, per the State, is \$42,000. **Juvenile Probation Officer Jeramiah McAdams** said Ms Maxwell would primarily be the school liaison, working with alternative education for juveniles facing expulsion from school, find jobs for some and also mental health services. Mrs Burkart moved to approve Judge Day's request and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters questioned the salary for the Surveyor since there is a salary line for a non-licensed surveyor. Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley was told by the State Board of Accounts requires the salary be stated for

a licensed surveyor and a non-licensed surveyor. Mrs Hungate moved to adopt the **2025 Salary Ordinance** and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten made a motion to approve the 9 transfer requests (Communications, Health Dept, Highway, Soil and Water and Community Corrections) and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the \$5,760 additional for the Eclipse -Fairgrounds budget and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. This additional was not voted on at the November meeting. Motion passes, 5 – 1.

Mr Metz moved to approve **ARPA Addendum 46 - \$20,000** and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 1. The Community Health Care Clinic will use these monies to update dental equipment.

Mrs Burkart moved to approve **ARPA Addendum 45 - \$35,798** and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes. 6 – 0. EMA will use these monies to purchase and install a new generator for the communications tower at 214 South Broadway.

Mrs Hungate made a motion to approve **ARPA Addendum 44 - \$160,000** and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. These monies will be used by the Fairgrounds Committee toward a new community building at the Fairgrounds.

Mr Metz moved to approve **ARPA Addendum 43 - \$100,000** and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 1. The Parks Department will use these monies for putting turf on the front 4 diamonds at the Sports Complex.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve **ARPA Addendum 42 - \$375,000** and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 1. The Parks Department plan to put pickleball courts on the old pool site.

Mr Peters said all of those currently serving agreed to be reappointed. **2025 Board Appointments:**
ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Commission) Board – Rheadawn Metz **Area Plan Commission – Ryan Kennelly** **Council’s Attorney – Chris Tebbe** **PTABOA (Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals) – Jennifer Johnson** **Solid Waste Management Board – Kenny Hooten**
Visitors/Tourism Board – JoAnn Burkhart and Zane Paulsen **Mrs Burkart moved to appoint Rick Nobbe to the SIRPC (Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission) Board and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.** **County RDC (Redevelopment Commission) – Matt Miller and Mr Peters** **Decatur County 911 Board – Mrs Hungate**

Mr Hooten made a motion to approve the **2025 Meeting Dates** and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month; the January meeting will begin at 10:00 am with the rest of the meetings beginning at 9:00 am.

Mr Hooten commented on the **ARPA monies** allocated over the last 4 years has done a lot of good for the county and the community. He’s pretty proud of the what the ARPA Committee has done, he thanked Mrs Burkart and Mrs Nobbe for their hard work; Commissioner Chuck Emsweller started out with the Committee, then Commissioner Tony Blodgett came on. He thanked the Council for their support.

Mr Peters thanked Mrs Nobbe for serving 4 years on the Council and volunteering to serve on various boards.

Commissioner Mark Koors said in his 8 years it’s been a pleasure to work with the Council and he appreciates working with all. Mr Hooten thanked Mr Koors for all he’s done for the County.

EDC Director Bryan Robbins told Council the READI has distributed \$10,000,000, which is about half of the funds and hoping to complete the rest of the projects before the end of 2025. The group has started on committing some funds from the READI 2, he reminded all the Decatur County Fairgrounds project in this READI so keep in contact with him and stay up on that. The Region is really proud of what’s been accomplished.

Mrs Hungate reminded all this is Auditor Chadwell's last Council meeting since she is retiring. Council thanked Mrs Chadwell for all she's done for them.

The next Council meeting will be January 21st, 2025 at 10:00 am at the Courthouse, Room 106.

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____