

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 20th, 2024

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

President Peters welcomed all to the Council's February 20th meeting; he then asked Patty Hensley 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 Burkart asked a change/correction be made to the statement she made regarding the Food and Beverage Tax: from "... for a pool project, so Mrs Burkart would like to move forward with adopting the **Food and Beverage Tax**" to move forward with a vote on adopting the Food and Beverage Tax. Mr Metz made a motion to approve the January 16th meeting minutes with the change and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Michelle Guidace, Director of Catch-A-Ride (Life Time Resources) presented her 2023 report on services provided to Decatur County residents: 126 residents were served in 7144 one-way trips but ridership is only about 60% of pre-covid numbers. Life Time Resources is in the process of changing their fleet of vehicles to mini-vans since a 'bus' costs over \$100,000. Seven replacement mini-vans were purchased in 2023 and six more new mini-vans will be purchased in 2024.

Circuit Court Judge Tim Day requested permission to re-allocate funds for a 2nd juvenile probation officer as he believes programming is needed more than a 2nd officer. **Juvenile Probation Officer Jeremiah McAdams** has a contractual agreement with Gracie Maxwell to be the instructor for the "**Why Not Program**" which currently has 12 students. This program is the alternative to expulsion and getting these students to graduation. This is a 15 – 18 weeks program for grades 6 – 12.

Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich presented the "*Come Swim With Us*" survey which had input from 1,048 participants. Those who used the pool weekly came in at 16.2% while 14.56% reported using it monthly; rarely came in with 18.03% ; never – 22.28% and used to when younger was 27.77%. The 'support' or 'oppose' results were: strongly support – 52.15%; somewhat support – 23.64%; somewhat oppose – 5.55%; strongly oppose – 12.25% and 6.41% were unsure. Mrs Kovacich visited the **Town of Aurora's** pool which is smaller than our **Allen Memorial Pool**. Aurora's pool cost \$3.5 million when it was built which it would cost \$5.2 million based on today's rates. The Parks Board has agreed to use \$15,000 of their 2024 budget to pay **R L Turner** to design our pool. Council discussed putting the design out for bids while saying \$4 million wouldn't build the pool our community wants. A motion was made and seconded at Council's last meeting for **R L Turner** to design a pool to cost between \$5 million and \$6 million dollars. **Carly Stainecker, Project Manager for R L Turner**, told Council "What the budget is, is what the design will be". R L Turner, BOT, will put out competitive bids once a design is created and approved.

Mrs Hungate made a motion to approve the **\$140,000 of the ARPA Addendum #24** for the Courthouse Elevator and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Metz moved to approve the **ARPA Addendum #26**, \$27,306 for the Sheriff's dash cams' service contract and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the **ARPA Addendum #27**, \$100,000 for the Speranza House Expansion Project and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the \$27,484.27 request for additional monies by the Soil and Water Department and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. The Soil and Water Board

supplements Scott Sanders' salary - \$8,478 and Jenna Nicholson's salary - \$14,578 with funds from other revenues that Board receives.

Mr Metz moved to allow transferring grant income that went into donation fund into its own grant fund and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

The **2023 Encumbrances** were presented for Council's approval. Mr Hooten moved to approve **\$148,765.50 for payroll** and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Mrs Hungate made a motion to approve **\$502,146.22 for 911's** miscellaneous encumbrance and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Mr Metz moved to approve the **\$7,946.89 for the Health Department's** encumbrance and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the County's 2024 Salary Ordinance and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters told Council since the **Food and Beverage Tax** was tabled at their last meeting, it would need to be un-tabled in today's meeting, otherwise it is done/dead at the next meeting. Mr Hooten made a motion un-table it and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Mr Peters asked for a roll call vote: **Yeas** – Mrs Burkart, Mr Hooten, Mrs Hungate and Mr Metz; **Nays** – Mr Gauck and Mrs Nobbe. Motion passes, 4 – 2. It is un-tabled. There was a discussion on whether **Robert's Rules of Order** should be followed by the Council until they have legal guidance. Mr Peters will contact **Council's Attorney Chris Tebbe** for a legal opinion/clarification. Mr Hooten made a motion to postpone the vote on the **Food and Beverage Tax** to the **Council's March 19th** meeting and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yeas – Mrs Burkart, Mr Hooten, Mrs Hungate and Mr Metz; Nays – Mr Gauck and Mrs Nobbe. Motion passes, 4 – 2.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins reported he just returned from Indonesia as he traveled with the **Soy Bean Alliance**. Indonesia is the 4th most populace country in the world, requiring imports of 90% of their demand for soy beans. Four companies – **Frontier, Main Stream Fiber, Comcast and our local REMC** – have submitted for the **Next Level Connections Broadband**. Projects for the **READI 2.0** were submitted on February 16th, 2024 and Mr Robbins reminded all if projects are awarded, local matching funds will be needed. Decatur County REMC's Brett Abplanalp told Mr Peters **DCREMC** has partnered with **SEI Communications** in its quest to bring high-speed internet access to underserved areas.

Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Dawn Lowe reminded all the rescheduled **Legislative Update** will be 8:30 – 10:00 am on March 16th. Senator Jean Leising, State Representatives Jennifer Meltzer, Alex Zimmerman and Lindsay Patterson will be in attendance to answer any questions. There are 2 upcoming **Eclipse information sessions** planned for Thursday, February 22nd at 9:00 am and 5:30 pm at Greensburg City Hall, to update the public on event details at Pirate Park and the County Fair Grounds.

The next Council meeting will be March 19th, 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 Gauck seconded the motion. Council's regular meeting is adjourned.

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____