

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, 6:00 pm at EOC Meeting Room, 315 S Ireland St, Greensburg, IN

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

The Council's first meeting of 2024 was opened by President Peters; he then asked Judge Matt Bailey 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 Metz made a motion to approve the December 19th meeting minutes and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Superior Court Judge Matt Bailey told Council he requested the \$5,500 in additional monies for a large television screen where defendants may interact with the Court proceedings via **Microsoft teams/zoom**; also, there are more defendants speaking rare foreign languages requiring more national searches for an interrupter/communication software. Mrs Hungate moved to approve Judge Bailey's request for \$5,500 and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Circuit Court Judge Tim Day and Judge Bailey requested \$10,000 be transferred from each of their budgets for part-time help to the **Clerk of the Courts'** part-time help budget as **Clerk Janet Howell** agreed her office would take back the duties of **Jury Administrator**. The transfer requests also included \$2,500 for postage, make the total transfers at \$22,500. Mr Metz made a motion to approve the transfer requests and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the \$109,905.18 encumbrances and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. The encumbrances mainly included salaries for the last two weeks worked December and paid January 5th, 2024.

Mr Hooten made a motion to approve the requests for transfers and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. A majority of the transfers were for first-quarter health insurance budgeted monies and also for the County's first quarter funding for Dispatch and IT Tech.

Mrs Burkart moved to appoint **Bill Metz** to the **Sheriff's Crisis Intervention Team Board** and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich introduced representatives of the **R L Turner Corporation** and **HWC Engineering** to describe/explain the renderings handed to Council members and answer questions. The Pool Committee was also in attendance for support and to answer any questions the Council might have. She told Council the renderings are just to provide a reference since a budget has not been established as well as the final amenities for this proposed project. Mrs Hungate has contacted the **Greensburg Public Library** to request the renderings be on display there for the public to see and to set a budget range. Mrs Nobbe would like to wait for the public to see the drawings and say what they want before developing a design concept. The \$10,000,000 concept design, which was drawn by **Context LLC** out of Indianapolis, was for a project for **READI**. The **ARPA Committee and the READI group** have \$3,000,000 designated for a pool project, so Mrs Burkart would like to move forward with adopting the **Food and Beverage Tax**. Mrs Hungate feels more comfortable with postponing a vote giving the public more time for voicing their opinions. **Greg Martz, GM Development**, described the 4 steps for most projects and told Council they are at the 'scoping period' which is design and budget. County Commissioners would hold a public hearing on the design and budget chosen in Step 3 and vote

the project up or down; should they approve the project; it would then be taken to Council to fund or they may choose not to fund it.

Mrs Nobbe made a motion to postpone voting on the **Food and Beverage Tax to the Council's February 20th meeting** and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Mr Gauck wanted to push the vote out to March. President Peters asked for a roll call vote: Mrs Burkart, Mrs Hungate and Mrs Nobbe voted yea and Mr Gauck, Mr Hooten and Mr Metz voted nay, a tied vote. President Peters voted nay to break the tie vote. **Motion fails, 3 -- 4.** Mr Hooten moved to table making a decision on the **Food and Beverage Tax** and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Mr Gauck, Mr Hooten, Mr Metz voted yea and Mrs Burkart, Mrs Hungate and Mrs Nobbe voted nay, a tied vote. President Peters vote yea to break the tie vote. **Motion passes, 4 – 3.** Council will need a majority vote to take this matter from 'the table'.

Mrs Kovacich told Council our community needs something new for pool/recreation and Mr Hooten suggested allowing R L Turner to proceed with a design; Mrs Hungate added this gives time to seek funding. Mrs Hungate made a motion for the design to come in between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000 and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

The next Council meeting will be February 20th, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse, Room 106.

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____