

## Decatur County Council Meeting

Date & Time: 2025-7-15 9:00 A.M.

Location: Room 106

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

### Opening Remarks

- President Danny Peters called the meeting to order for the July session of the County Council.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Patty Hensley.
- Approval of Minutes:
  - Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting.
  - No additions or corrections noted.
  - Motion to approve the June 17th minutes made by Bill Metz, seconded by Ashley Hungate. Motion passes 6-0

### Youth to Yellowstone Funding Request

- Marcia Hausman, representing Youth to Yellowstone, introduced herself as a logistics officer.
- The organization requested funding to support their programs, highlighting their impact on youth, including helping them become journeyman electricians, teachers, and nurses.
- Youth to Yellowstone relies on donations and fundraising events, such as a spring fundraiser, to support their initiatives. The average cost per student is \$2,100.
- The cost of vans has increased, but the organization is requesting the same funding amount as last year of \$7,500. They plan to review their financial situation in August.

### 4-H Council of Decatur County Update

- Steve Gauck presented on behalf of the 4-H Council, emphasizing the organization's long-standing presence and influence in the community.
- Over 500 youth are involved in 4-H, with more than 2,450 projects entered in the fair. The program offers 70 different projects, fostering leadership and community pride.
- The 4-H Council has maintained a flat budget request of \$15,000 for several years, with community support helping to offset shortfalls. They are recognized as a leader in the state for their innovative practices.
- The council has initiated recognition for tenured members, enhancing pride and engagement among participants.

### Youth Mentoring and Funding Challenges

- Champions of Youth, led by Lisa Hermesch, has been serving the community for over 44 years, with 573 children served in 2024.
- The organization is seeking \$10,700 to help with liability insurance, as most funding comes from community grants.
- The city does not provide financial support, despite half of the children being from the county, complicating transportation and outreach efforts.

## **Insurance and Budget for Community Corrections**

- Matt Hoeing discussed the need for continued insurance coverage through the public safety tax for community corrections employees and one probation position.
- The 2026 budget request includes maintaining this insurance coverage, as the department cannot cover it independently.
- The department consists of five positions, with four in community corrections and one in probation.

## **Salary Adjustments and Staffing**

- Jake Bauer, responsible for mowing the fairgrounds and other areas, received a \$1/hour raise, increasing his wage from \$17 to \$18 per hour. Kenny Hooten made the motion, Ashley Hungate seconded. Motion passes 6-0
- Leslie Straight, a nurse who recently graduated to RN, is proposed to have her salary increased to \$60,000, funded by grants. Bill Metz made the motion, Deanna Burkart seconded. Motion passes 6-0.
- Concerns were raised about the sustainability of grant funding for salaries beyond two years.

## **Health Department Budget and Community Event**

- The Healthy First Indiana budget was cut by 75%, but programming will continue with a 5% budget decrease.
- An upcoming community event will provide 300 backpacks with school supplies, free haircuts, physicals, and other services, funded by grants and donations.

## **Area Plan and Legal Representation**

- An additional of \$11,804.71 was presented for Area Plan expenses incurred for extra duties concerning the solar project. This comes from a reimbursement by Cobias Solar Petition. Ashley Hungate made motion to approve, Rick Nobbe seconded. Motion passes 6-0.

## **Development of Work-Based Internships**

- The state now requires students to complete work-based internships or shadowing hours to graduate from public institutions.
- Approximately 200 students in the community need to find internships, prompting a call for local businesses to assist.
- A public information session is scheduled for August 21st, with details to be confirmed, involving the Indiana Department of Education and local schools.

## **Local Sports Tournaments and Facilities**

- The Sports Complex has successfully booked 23 tournaments for the year, with expectations to exceed 25 by year-end.
- Positive feedback has been received about the quality of the sports facilities, with no rainouts reported despite a wet year.
- Concerns were raised about parking and safety, particularly regarding children navigating between parked cars.

## **2024 Salary Ordinance Amendments**

An employee was inadvertently left off the 2024 salary ordinance. An amendment was presented with the change. Ashley Hungate made motion to approve, Deanna Burkart seconded. Motion passes 6-0.

### **Salary Ordinance Amendments**

- Changes in positions for Amanda Rich and Alicia Nobbe were discussed. Rick Nobbe made the motion to approve, Deanna Burkart seconded. Motion passes 6-0.
- The salary ordinance was amended to reflect these changes, with specific figures provided for each position.

### **Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) Program**

- The CCMG program is highly competitive, with 92 counties vying for funding.
- The county has received significant funding in the past two years, totaling \$2 million.
- With nothing else to come before the Council, Kenny Hooten made a motion to adjourn, and Ernie Gauck seconded the motion. Council's regular meeting is adjourned.

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Danny Peters, President

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_