

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 Hermes, 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.

Danny Peters, President

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Attest: _____

Date: _____