

Decatur County Council Meeting

Date & Time: 2025-06-17 9:00 A.M.

Location: Room 104

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 June session of the County Council.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Todd Houk.
- Approval of Minutes:
 - Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting.
 - No additions or corrections noted.
 - Motion to approve the May 20th minutes made by Kenny Hooten, seconded by Ashley Hungate. Motion passes 5-0
 - Motion to approve the June 3rd minutes made by Kenny Hooten, seconded by Ashley Hungate. Motion passes 5-0.

EMA Director Position

- **Resignation and Hiring Process**
 - Brad Spears resigned as EMA Director.
 - Interviews were conducted for six applicants, though one bowed out, resulting in five interviews on Monday, June 9th.
 - The pool was narrowed down to two strong candidates, and the advisory board recommended applicant number one.
 - The Commissioners agreed to hire this individual at their meeting yesterday.
- **Salary Discussion**
 - The proposed salary for the new EMA Director is \$55,000, an increase from the current director's salary of \$53,643.
 - The total difference in cost, including FICA (\$105 difference) and PERF (\$155 difference), amounts to \$1,622 annually.
 - Discussion included comparison with other applicants' salary expectations, with one preferred candidate asking for \$90,000 and another for \$70,000, noting the salary range for the EMA director in the salary study is \$51,000 to \$70,000.
 - It was highlighted that the state offsets half of the EMA director's salary, which helps with the budget.
 - The interim director, Gary Hash, has been working full-time and receiving the full director's pay, which will revert once the new director is hired.
- **Approval of Salary**
 - A motion to approve the \$55,000 salary was made by Ashley Hungate, seconded by Deanna Burkart, and passed 5-0. Danny Peters voted no.

Financial Transfers and Appropriations

- **Transfer Approvals**
 - Discussion on various transfers, including funds for a new veterans' initiative and vehicle supplies for Soil and Water.
 - A motion to approve the transfers was made by Ernie Gauck, seconded by Kenny Hooten. Motion passes 5-0.

- **City TIF Transfer**

- An additional transfer from City TIF, specifically to the park activity fund for the ball diamonds, was discussed.
- This transfer needed to be approved again because it had not been advertised previously.
- A motion to approve this transfer was made by Kenny Hooten, seconded by Ernie Gauck. Motion passes 5-0.
- It was noted that accounts for the ball diamonds and park activities fund still need to be set up, as the money is currently going into the general park activity fund. The new parks director will be tasked in getting this completed with the auditor's office.

Additional Business

- **EDC Annual Meeting**

- Scheduled for July 10th at 9:30 AM.
- Discussion included state-level investments and projects, such as making new jobs.

- **Education and Community Liaison**

- A need was identified for a liaison to help bring people to the table to better understand new high school graduation diploma requirements, which include specific completion amounts.
- Engagement with the business community is ongoing to address these educational needs and determine how they can assist.

- 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

Attest: _____

Date: _____