

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 19th, 2024

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

President Peters opened March 19th Council meeting by welcoming everyone; he then asked Kenny Hooten 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 February 20th meeting minutes and the March 7th Special Meeting minutes and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters told Council members he had spoken to Financial Consultant Reuben Cummings who agreed Council may vote today to begin the process to reduce the **Special Purpose Jail Tax Rate** from \$0.65 to \$0.60. A public hearing will need to be scheduled and advertised. Mr Metz made a motion to start the process of reducing the Special Purpose Jail Tax and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Mr Peters announced the public hearing will be scheduled for April 16th at 9:05 am.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the \$8,553 additional in the equipment appropriation in the **Click It to Live It fund 8002** and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the transfer requests and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters asked Council members how would they like to approach the **Food and Beverage Tax**. Mr Hooten would like to have the option to postpone indefinitely, maybe to have a purpose for the Fair Grounds, so he made a motion to postpone adopting the Food and Beverage Tax indefinitely and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. He has concerns with future changes in the Council, would like to see what the Fair Ground studies show and have the Food and Beverage Tax if we need it. Those voting yea were: Mrs Burkart, Mr Gauck, Mr Hooten, Mrs Hungate and Mr Metz; Mrs Nobbe voted nay. Motion passes, 5 – 1.

Mr Peters told Council members the Auditor's Office asked if the six county funds – *County General, 1000; EDIT LIT, 1112; Special Purpose Jail LIT, 1114; Cum Cap Development, 1138; Local Road and Streets, 1169 and Highway Restricted MVH, 1173* -- each could receive interest from the Treasurer's investments instead of all interest going into County General. There will need to be an ordinance adopted setting interest to go to these funds. Mr Metz moved to approve these funds receiving interest per monies from each fund and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

County Redevelopment Commission President Don Schilling presented the **2023 TIF Annual Report** which is required to be uploaded in **Gateway**, the Department of Local Government's reporting system. The RDC started a project list, mostly infrastructure, in 2006 have completed most of those projects, so they have started discussions on future projects. Mr Schilling said the County Commissioners have to approve the list of projects. There is about \$2,700,000 in the RDC fund, with an annual income of about \$2,000,000. The **Honda Tax Incremental Finance District** was set for 30 years, with an expiration date of 2036. The RDC expanded/amended the Honda original allocation area to include the West State Road 46 Bypass corridor to County Road 550 west in 2019.

Sheriff Bill Meyerrose asked Council to let him know if they had not received/reviewed the **2024 Annual Jail Report** or if they had any questions.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk told Council **INDOT** has awarded Federal Aid funds (80/20) to Decatur County for Bridge 141, South County Roads 100 West and 600 South.

HR Administrator Patty Hensley told Council **Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele** has completed the job descriptions for non-elected positions and she has received the draft of recommendations. The next step representatives from WIS asked to meet with 3 Council members and 1 Commissioner; or Mrs Burkart said the payroll committee started this so they should be the ones meeting with WIS. Mr Peters wants all Council members to meet with WIS representatives to have information for their 2025 Budget Session.

Board of Health President Dr James Howell brought Eclipse glasses to give away to anyone wanting some.

Treasurer Diane Wenning said the property tax statements were mailed last week and some have already received theirs.

The next Council meeting will be April 16th, 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: _____