

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Present: 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 May session of the County Council.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Doug Westerfeld.
- Approval of Minutes:
 - Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting.
 - No additions or corrections noted.
 - Motion to approve by Kenny Hooten, seconded by Deanna Burkart. Motion passes 6-0

Budget and Financial Amendments

- **EDIT Plan Amendment:**
 - READI Grant Amendment:
 - Previous allocation: \$31,000.
 - Additional \$25,000 approved for fundraising materials, bringing total to \$56,000.
 - Contracted with Daniel Fayette for promotional video and handouts.
 - Future increase to \$2,056,000 discussed but not voted on today.
- **Ball Diamond Renovation Funding:**
 - Total project cost: \$1.75 million.
 - Funding sources include:
 - \$550,000 from ARPA.
 - \$100,000 from EDIT.
 - \$100,000 from City TIF.
 - \$400,000 from RDC Decatur County.
 - \$50,000 from Parks Department.
 - \$350,000 additional from ARPA.
 - \$200,000 from Build Decatur County.
 - Economic Impact:
 - Average attendance of 3,500 people per tournament.
 - Concession sales over \$35,000 for five weeks.
 - Positive impact on local businesses and tourism.
 - Encourages corporate sponsorships.
- **Approval of Additional Funds:**
 - Ball Diamond Renovation:
 - Request for \$100,000 addition to complete renovation. This allows the funds from City TIF to be appropriated and spent, not additional funding.
 - Motion made by Kenny Hooten and seconded by Ernie Gauck. Motion passed 6-0 with Danny Peters voting no.

Parking and Infrastructure Concerns

- Parking Issues:
 - Insufficient parking at the ball diamonds.
 - Discussion on potential solutions, including collaboration with local businesses for parking space.

CIT Program Updates

- Service Calls and Staffing:

- Current Status: As of this morning, approximately 80 calls for service have been handled since February 1st.
 - Impact: Reduction in emergency room visits and detention center admissions.
 - Staffing: Introduction of a full-time licensed clinical social worker in the detention center.
 - New Hires: Two response deputies, John Bundick and Tiffani McFarland, have been hired.
- Training and Community Engagement:
 - CIT Training: First 40-hour CIT training week held in April with 15 certifications.
 - Collaboration: Partnerships with CIT groups in Shelby and Rush counties for shared training resources.
 - Community Involvement: Engagement with service providers and mental health groups; 25 attendees expected.
- External Recognition and Goals:
 - Recognition: National Alliance on Mental Illness for Indiana has praised the department's CIT program.
 - Goals: Aim to reduce service call numbers and improve community mental health support.

Greensburg Tower Repairs and Enhancements

- Compliance and Repair Needs:
 - Current Issue: Out of compliance with FCC and FAA due to a non-functioning light on the tower.
 - Repair Cost: \$6,000 for labor to climb the tower and replace the light with an LED.
- Proposed Enhancements:
 - Backup Systems: Proposal to run antenna and cabling for low band and 700 megahertz repeaters.
- Funding and Approval:
 - 911 Board Agreement: Up to \$20,000 approved for light repair.
 - Additional Funding Request: \$50,000 requested from unused county-wide funds for tower maintenance and enhancements.
 - Timeline: Special session proposed for expedited approval to avoid delays into September.
- Clarifications and Additional Information:
 - Tower Locations: Greensburg site and Letts site are state towers, not county-maintained assets.
 - Funding Source: 50-50 split between city and county, used for unexpected expenses and upgrades.
 - Future Upgrades: Potential \$150,000 upgrade for 911 consoles planned for this year.
 - The advertisement is scheduled to appear in the paper on Saturday.
 - A special session is required for approval.

Project Updates

- Generator Installation:
 - The electric system has been changed over from the old to the new setup.
 - A baseboard has been ordered, with delivery expected between the end of September and mid-October.
 - Preparations include clearing weeds to make space for installation.
- Compliance and Agreements:
 - The project is currently out of compliance, and there is a grace period.
 - A gentleman's agreement is proposed to allow the project to start before formal approval.

Abatement Issues

- Delta Faucet Abatement:
 - Delta Faucet failed to submit necessary paperwork for their ERA abatement for two years.
 - They are requesting a waiver of non-compliance to start at 100% or go back two years to claim the abatement.
- Council Decision:
 - A motion was made by Kenny Hooten and seconded by Bill Metz not to grant the waiver for past years due to non-compliance. Motion passed 6-0.
 - The abatement will start this year at 60%, moving forward.

Transfers and Budget

- Child Support Conference Transfers:
 - Approval of transfers related to the child support conference were discussed.
 - Bill Metz made a motion to approve transfers, seconded by Deanna Burkart. Motion passes 6-0.
- Sheriff's Department Vehicle Update:
 - The department is a month and a half away from having all five vehicles.
 - Ford's slow delivery has been a holdup, but Dodge vehicles arrived early.
 - Selling vehicles locally has been challenging.
- Council Budget Review:
 - The council's budget for the year is \$302,077, covering wages, insurance, legal services, and other expenses.
 - No changes are proposed for next years budget.

Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

- Budget Workshop and Public Hearing:
 - Department heads and elected officials will meet on August 18th, with the budget workshop on August 19th.
 - Public hearing scheduled for September 16th, with budget adoption on October 21st.
- 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: _____