

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 21st, 2024

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

President Peters opened the Council's May meeting by welcoming everyone; he then asked Mrs Burkart to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(Meeting minutes and agendas are emailed to Council members the Friday before their Tuesday meeting)

Mrs Hungate made a motion to approve the April 16th minutes and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the transfer requests submitted by Community Corrections, Home Detention and the Sheriff and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve Communications' request for \$319.98 in additional monies for furniture and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Metz moved to approve Communications' additional of \$2,514.59 in overtime worked during the Solar Eclipse and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Burkart made a motion to approve the \$2,199.20 additional request by the Health Department for travel expenses to the District 9 Healthcare Summit and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters opened the Public Hearing on lowering the local income tax rate for the Special Purpose Jail Tax from \$0.65 to \$0.60. The current rate provides \$4,619,064 to the County and the \$0.60 rate would result in a 7.69% reduction of around \$355,313 if it was done for all of 2024 -- Financial Consultant Reuben Cummings had emailed this information to the Council as his schedule had a conflict with today's meeting. Local resident Chris Ramey thanked Council members for looking into reducing a tax and moving forward with it. With no other public wishing to comment, Mr Metz moved to close the Public Hearing and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs Burkart – aye; Mr Gauck – aye; Mr Hooten – aye; Mrs Hungate – aye; Mr Metz – aye; Mrs Nobbe – aye and Mr Peters – aye. Motion passes, 7 yeas, 0 nays

Ordinance 2024-6 would establish the disbursement of funds earning monthly interest to be applied proportionally back to the fund that earned the interest: 1000 – County General; 1112 – EDIT LIT; 1114 Special Purpose Jail LIT (besides the \$3 million CD); 1138 Cumulative Capital Development; 1169 – Local Roads and Streets and 1173 – Highway Restricted MVH. Mr Hooten moved to approve as presented and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. This ordinance begins with the June 1, 2024 investment date.

Emily Verseman and Felicia Wickey, Community Health Care Clinic, shared some updates at the Clinic including revised hours the clinic offers medical and dental appointments.

HR Administrator Patty Hensley presented a recap of the job classification and compensation analysis conducted by **Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele** which began in July 2023 and has been a long process. Questionnaires were sent out to be completed by all employees; department heads then reviewed those questionnaires and then the job description drafts from WIS. There were over 175 job descriptions, FSLA analysis, internal wage as well as external wage comparisons created by WIS. Addie Rooker, WIS, met with the salary committee and Council members to review the reports and answer any concerns or questions before it was shared with elected officials and department heads. Mrs Hungate made the motion to approve **Ordinance 2024-7**, adopting the job descriptions for Decatur County employees and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs Burkart – aye; Mr

Gauck – aye; Mr Hooten – aye; Mrs Hungate – aye; Mr Metz – aye; Mrs Nobbe – aye and Mr Peters – aye. Motion passes, 7 ayes, 0 nays. Mrs Hensley stated the classified – exempt or non-exempt per FSLA will be used going forward as well as the job descriptions for each position. The job classification system, the factor evaluation and maintenance plan for the new job descriptions will be used to develop compensation schedules. WIS suggested creating a compensation committee comprising of 3 Council members or their appointees, 1 Commissioner or their appointee, the Auditor and HR Administrator will serve as ex officio. Mr Gauck moved to adopt **Ordinance 2024-8** and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs Burkart – aye; Mr Gauck – aye; Mr Hooten – aye; Mrs Hungate – aye; Mr Metz – aye; Mrs Nobbe – aye and Mr Peters – aye. Motion passes, 7 ayes, 0 nays. The Salary Committee will review and make recommendations to the Department Heads for their 2025 Budgets. Mr Hooten made a motion to appoint Mrs Burkard, Mrs Hungate, Mr Peters on the Classification Compensation Committee and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Mr Peters will ask Commissioner Mark Koors if he will sit on this committee since he was on the previous salary committee. Mr Metz moved to wait/delay giving the WIS report until after the Committee meets to discuss it and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0, Mr Peters voted nay.

2025 Budgets Dates: Departments present budget requests to Council, beginning at 1:00 pm on August 19th; Council Budget Workshop following the regular meeting on August 20th; Public Hearing at regular Council meeting on September 17th and adoption of 2025 Budgets on October 15th.

Sheriff Bill Meyerrose shared a copy of the letter he sent to the Commissioners regarding the expiring, current food contract with **Trinity** and a new contract with **Kellwell**. He expects to save around \$40,000 a year with the new food vendor.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins hopes to finish the road usage agreement with **Fletcher Power** soon.

The next Council meeting will be June 18th, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse, Room 106.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Metz made a motion to adjourn and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Council’s regular meeting is adjourned.

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____