

# Decatur County Council Meeting

Date: 2025-10-21 09:00

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 October session of the County Council.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Deanna Burkart.
- Approval of Minutes:
  - Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting.
  - No additions or corrections noted.
  - Motion to approve the September 16th minutes made by Ernie Gauck, seconded by Deanna Burkart. Motion passes 6-0.

## Part Time Ordinance

- Dottie Robbins presented a Part Time Ordinance 2025-17 to be paid from Recorders Perpetuation Fund. Bill Metz made the motion to approve, Ashley Hungate seconded, motion passes 6-0.

## Clarksburg Rat Problem

- A significant rat infestation affecting ~30 homes in Clarksburg were declared a public health emergency. State law requires the county to fund eradication. The health department will proceed immediately with a plan estimated to cost \$4,500 for supplies, with funding to be determined later. An employee is getting licensed to perform the work, saving the county an estimated \$8,000-\$10,000.

## Salary Adjustments

- Salary Correction for Environmental Health Specialist: A motion was made by Rick Nobbe, to correct the salary of Allie Myers, who was hired at a lower rate than budgeted. Her 2026 salary will be adjusted to \$45,512.61 to account for the error and missed raises, pending auditor reconciliation. Motion seconded by Deanna Burkart, motion passes 6-0.
- EMA Director Mike Snyder asked to increase the Deputy Director's pay from \$18/hour to the budgeted \$20/hour for the remainder of 2025 and all of 2026. Bill Metz made the motion to approve, Ernie Gauck seconded, motion passes 6-0.

## Grant Approvals

- A motion was made by Rick Nobbe and seconded by Ashley Hungate to approve a grant application to State Homeland Security for \$112,166.46. The 100% reimbursable grant will fund technology upgrades, including radios, for the command bus. Ashley Hungate seconded the motion, motion passes 6-0.
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG): Deanna Burkart made a motion to approve the annual EMPG application for a \$30,000 salary reimbursement from Homeland Security, Bill Metz seconded, motion passes 6-0.

## Salary Change Requests

- Parks Department Supervisor Chris Noblett made a request for a 3% raise for himself. He was hired in early July and denied due to a policy that makes employees hired after July 1 ineligible for the following year's raise.

This resulted in a supervisor earning less than a subordinate. Ernie Gauck made the motion to approve, Bill Metz seconded, the hand vote ended in a tie of 3-3 which left President Danny Peters the deciding vote, he voted no. Motion failed, the council agreed to review the policy to prevent future issues.

- Tourism Director Salary Request: A request was made by Erica Gunn to increase the Tourism Director's salary for alignment with the Parks and Rec director. No motion was made resulting in a 6-0 vote to not approve as the justification was no longer valid and salaries are not based on other departments.
- EMA Director asked for an increase in the part time EMA rate to be changed from \$18.00 an hour to \$20.00 an hour. The money is in the budget for the remainder of 2025 and all of 2026. Bill Metz made the motion to approve, Deanna Burkart seconded, motion passes 6-0.

**Interest Ordinance 2025-18**

- Resolution 2025-18 was approved allowing medical insurance provider Dunn and Associates to invest excess funds (currently around \$1.6 million) from the county's interest-bearing insurance account into low-risk, liquid assets. Rick Nobbe made the motion to approve, Deanna Burkart seconded, motion passes 6-0.

**Budget, Appropriations, and Fund Management**

- 2026 Budget Adoption: The total adopted budget for 2026 is \$27,551,406 with a total adopted tax rate of .3860. Key fund appropriations include County General (\$12,231,793), Health Insurance (\$4,667,500), and Special Purpose Jail Tax (\$4,878,608 a motion to approve the budget was made by Ashley Hungate, seconded by Kenny Hooten, motion passes 6-0.
- Solid Waste Budget Adoption: The 2026 Solid Waste budget was presented at \$774,150, with an adopted tax levy of \$461,309 and a tax rate of .0247. Deanna Burkart made the motion to approve, Ashley Hungate seconded, motion passes 6-0.
- Additional Appropriations: Several additional appropriations were presented: \$20,000 for completed tower maintenance, \$250,000 for equipment repair and upgrades, and \$24,500 for attorney fees (to be reimbursed). Ashley Hungate made the motion to approve, Kenny Hooten seconded, motion passes 6-0.

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.

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Danny Peters, President

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_