

## Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, Room 106

**Present:** Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, John Westhafter, Bill Metz, Deanna Burkart and Kenny Hooten

President Gauck called the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Decatur County Council to order. As the last month he resides as President, he wanted to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

After reviewing the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

**County Sheriff Dave Durant** told Council members he has spoken to Commissioners about purchasing a new transport van and learned the 2011 Community Corrections van is available and it would need to retro fitted for transporting inmates. Mr Metz moved to approve the Sheriff to purchase the 2011 Community Corrections van to use as a backup transport vehicle. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0. The 'liable' comp time hours for each of the Sheriff's 51 employees are down to 40 hours or less; he plans to further reduce that number to 24 hours by next year. Sheriff Durant asked for a change in the hourly rate for his part time people, who serve papers and transports inmates, from the County's rate of \$13.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour which the 2020 PT appropriation is for the 15.00 hourly rate, so no additional monies will be needed. Mr Peters moved to approve the \$15.00 per hour rate and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0. Sheriff Durant thanked Council members for a tremendous year, it was his rookie year and he's looking forward to 2020.

**Public Safety Network Engineer Josh Tressler** told Council he is working on upgrading the County's email and internet with a cost savings once it is housed in the County. Mr Tressler is working to make systems more secure for both the City of Greensburg and the County. He will also create a schedule for replacing older equipment for the County.

**County Prosecutor Nate Harter** requested increases in the part time hourly rate for interns: undergraduates would receive \$10 an hour; law school interns would be at \$12 an hour; certified legal interns would receive \$18 an hour; law clerks have graduated from law school but have not yet passes the Bar and cannot be classified as interns would be paid \$20 an hour. Some interns working in the Prosecutor's office are receiving no pay if they are receiving school credit. Mr Peters moved to approve the stated rates as presented. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

**County Treasurer Brenda Dwenger** thanked Council members for their support over the two plus years. Mrs Dwenger will take the Office of Greensburg Clerk-Treasurer on January 1, 2020. She introduced Jamie Boling who was caucused in by the Republican Party to complete Mrs Dwenger's last year in her term. Mrs Boling will file to run for a four-year term in 2020 for the Office County Treasurer. Mrs Dwenger reported the interest income for 2018 was \$270,470.88 and \$275,102.35 has been earned through November 30<sup>th</sup> of 2019. The 'laddered long term' interest income is \$90,838.20 which is in addition to the \$275,102.35 for 2019.

An Amended 144 Statement of Salaries and Wages for 2020 for the Auditor's office was presented by Auditor Chadwell. Mrs Chadwell presented information comparing salaries in counties with similar populations. She stated many counties paid to have 'time studies' done establishing workload relative to pay. In the Courthouse, elected officials receive the same salary amount regardless of number of deputies and responsibilities; the Deputies are also paid the same from office to office. Due to one Deputy Auditor retiring in October, the Auditor ask Council to approve using \$24,000 of that 2020 salary and dividing it equally between the Auditor and five Deputy Auditors; she also requested using the balance of that salary between the comp time and the part time help appropriations. The County would see a savings in Health Insurance costs. After some discussions, Mr Hooten moved to approve the

Auditor's Amended 144 for 2020. Mr Peters added the change is for one year so the Auditor's office can see how if this will work and he seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

After reviewing four pages of transfer requests from various departments, Mr Meyers moved to approve the transfers and Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Mr Peters move to approve the request for additional monies in the Cumulative Capital Development Fund for the purpose of purchasing equipment and furniture. Mr Meyers seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Mr Peters moved to appoint Tom Cherry to replace Bill Dieckmann and Eric Whitaker to replace Ryan Kennelly on the Area Plan Commission. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0. Mr Cherry will serve a four-year term and Mr Whitaker will serve through December 31, 2020.

Mr Metz moved to appoint Jennifer Slagle to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA), replacing Ed Gindling. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0. Ms Slagle is a Level 3 Certified Assessor.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the Council's Meeting Schedule for 2020 and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

After reviewing the updated/amended 2019 Salary ordinance, Mr Meyers moved to approve it as presented and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Mr Gauck told Council members it is time for another person to lead as President. He thanked members for all the respect they gave him; he then opened the floor for nominations for President. Mr Metz nominated Mr Peters to be President of the Council and Mr Meyers seconded the motion. Mr Meyers then moved to close the floor for nominations and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Mr Meyers nominated Mr Metz to serve as Vice President of the Council and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Mr Hooten moved to close the floor for nominations and Mr Meyers seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Mr Gauck thanked Council members for their efforts and hard work in 2019.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Metz moved to adjourn and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

The Council's next regular meeting is January 21, 2020 at 9:00 am.

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Ernest Gauck, President

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

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