Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 20, 2016, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Larry Meyer, Geneva Hunt, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters and Kenny Hooten

President Gauck called the meeting to order

Councilwoman Geneva Hunt led the pledge of allegiance.

After Council members reviewed the November 15th meeting minutes, Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

EMA Director Rob Duckworth presented his year- end report. Decatur County has received a total of $93,653 which includes 2015 salary reimbursements, radio amplifying equipment and portable generator hook-ups at the Courthouse and City Hall. Mr Duckworth stated Decatur County has received more in grants than the other eleven counties in our district combined.

County Commissioner Jerome Buening presented information on needed repairs on the exterior of our Courthouse. He explained there needs to be a more permanent fix to the exterior so they hired **RC Engineers** to do a study on the condition of the Courthouse as well as have an arborist to evaluate our Courthouse tree. He explained two approaches to funding the needed repairs- bonds or a direct loan from a bank. The direct loan would be cheaper, saving about $200,000 in interest. The Commissioners adopted **Ordinance 2016-8** allowing them to borrow monies for the repairs and improvements on the exterior of the Courthouse. Mr Gauck asked if this loan is like a 'construction loan'. Mr Buening said yes, so they would only borrow monies needed, hopefully the bids will come in lower than the $1.5 million. Mr Buening, on behalf of the Commissioners, thanked Mrs Hunt for all of her years of services in the various offices she has held and worked in. He wished her the best in her retirement.

Council members took several minutes to review the 'transfer requests' submitted by several departments. After some discussion, Mr Owens moved to approve the 'transfer requests'. Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries 7 – 0.

The Council approved the list of the 2017 meeting dates and times.

Mr Gauck read the names for various board appointments:

Alcoholic Beverage Commission- Rheadawn Metz	**Council's Attorney- Lora Williams**
Park & Rec Board- Russell Wilson	**PTABOA- Ryan Kennelly and Ed Gindling**
Solid Waste Management- Kenny Hooten	**SIRPC- John Westhafer**
Redevelopment- TIF- Jim Saler and Kenny Owens	**911 Board- Larry Meyer**
Economic Development Commission- James Tomson	**EMA Board- Danny Peters**

Mr Peters moved to approve/appoint those named above to the various boards. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

Central Dispatch Director Tiffany Lacey answered the Council's questions on her request for additional funds in the **Statewide 911 Fund.** Two dispatchers who have five or more years of service have resigned requiring a sizeable payout plus paying overtime to cover those shifts until replacements are hired. Mr Metz moved to approve the additional funds and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7-0.

Visitors and Recreation Director Gary Herbert asked Council members to reappoint two members to the **Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Board.** Mr Hooten moved to appoint Stephanie Hoeing and JoAnn Burkhart. Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7-0.

Mr Gauck presented a plaque to Mrs Hunt thanking her for eight years of service as a Councilwoman and her sixteen years as County Recorder and County Auditor.

Mrs Hunt told Council members they are a great group to work with and she is honored to have them think of her with a plaque. She thanked all for having a breakfast in her honor.

Mr Meyer announced the public 'swearing in' of newly elected officials will be held on December 30th at 10:00 am in Decatur Circuit Court.

Mr Gauck officially welcomed newly elected Councilman Judge John Westhafer.

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

The next County Council meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on January 17th, 2017.

_____

Ernest Gauck, President

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

Attest: _____

Date: _____