

Draft

**Special Decatur County Council Joint Meeting  
With County Commissioners**

**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Present:** Danny Peters, Bill Metz, Melanie Nobbe, Ashley Hungate, Deanna Burkart, Ernie Gauck, Kenny Hooten, Mark Koors and Tony Blodgett, Jeremy Pasel via zoom.

**Agenda: Funds and the future of Allen Memorial Pool**

President Peters opened the special meeting; he then asked Mr Koors to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr Hooten requested this meeting to talk about- decide what pool project can Decatur County fund and what funds are available: currently there's \$3,000,000 on the table for a \$3 to \$10 million dollar project. Decatur County does not qualify for available grants for this project. Mr Peters is willing to go another \$1,000,000 for a total of \$4,000,000. Locally, businesses are not supporting a project of this size.

Bryan Robbins, Parks and Recreation Board member, suggested creating 3 scenarios: a) a \$3 - \$5,000,000 project b) \$5 - \$7,000,000 project c) \$7 - \$10,000,000 and lets see what each can include. He added the County Commissioners did sign off allowing the BOT (Build, Operate, Transfer) to be an option.

Mr Blodgett wants a budget in place before building a proposal. Mr Koors has received calls from the public wanting to see what \$4,000,000 does/buys. Parks and Rec Director Teresa Kovacich, along with members of the pool committee, has visited other communities and \$4,000,000 won't get much; so the public won't be excited let alone draw folks from outside of our community. There are 4 contractors interested in a pool project. Mr Blodgett asked what does the Council think the pool should have. The price tag for what the Pool Committee wants is \$6 - \$10,000,000. The Committee has put a lot of thought in the features – lazy river, family slide, dive well, swim lanes to list a few they feel would attract and benefit the public. Dr James Howell, President of the Board of Health, said the Council has the option of adopting a Food and Beverage Tax to help fund this project. Mrs Hungate said folks are comfortable with the \$3 - \$4,000,000 range, she would like more information and it isn't fair to mix the Food and Beverage Tax in this conversation. Mr Pasel asked where the extra \$1,000,000 come from and Mr Peters said he had spoken to Reuben Cummings, Financial Consultant, who said EDIT (Economic Development Income Taxes) could be used to borrow that amount from a bank. Mr Peters also believes Mr Cummings \$330,000 projections for the Food and Beverage Tax revenues are more accurate than the \$539,000 projected by Baker Tilly Financial Advisors.

**The next Council meeting will be December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 9:00 am.**

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

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Danny Peters, President

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

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