

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2018, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, Judge John Westhafer, Bill Metz and Kenny Hooten. The Council's meeting began at 10:00 am due to the Commissioners having to move their regular '3rd Monday meeting' to Tuesday, January 16th.

President Gauck called the meeting to order. Tim Gauck led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Council members reviewed the December 12th meeting minutes, Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried, 6 – 0.

Council members took a few minutes to review the requests to transfer monies and encumbrances of monies; some of which was to get 2017 appropriations balanced and move monies to the County Health Insurance non-reverting fund. Mr Meyer moved to approve the transfers and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6-0.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Gary Herbert shared details on a car show being planned for August 23rd through August 26th at the Decatur County Fairgrounds.

Greg Fox of Dunn and Associates explained the "specific" deductible level (\$75,000) and the "aggregate attachment point" (\$2,537,181) will hopefully save the County total health dollars spent. The County Commissioners choose to replace insurance broker **Assured Partners NL** and third-party administrator **HealthSmart with Dunn and Associates** who will serve as both broker and TPA.

Bryan Robbins introduced himself as the recently appointed **Executive Director of Economic Development Commission**. He just completed a seminar at **Ball State** on "useful tools" such as property tax abatements and tax increment financing to persuade businesses and workers to our community. Mr Robbins plans to present quarterly updates to both the Council and Commissioners.

County Prosecutor Nathan Harter asked Council members to approve salary increases for his staff for 2018. Mr Harter had submitted specific salaries with his 2018 budget requests. The Council approved salary amounts, including any supplemental salaries, for all county employees on October 17th, 2017 and those were then given to Mr Harter's office. After check stubs were distributed for the first pay in January, Mr Harter emailed the Auditor asking why his employees didn't receive the salaries he had submitted. Mr Harter supplements salaries with discretionary funds derived from fees collected by the Clerk of the Courts office and the Prosecutor's office. He stated his supplementing salaries are sustainable for about four more years. He then presented an Amended 144- Statement of Salaries for the Council's consideration. Supplemental salaries totaled \$55,010 for 2018. Mr Metz moved to approve the Amended 144 and Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Mr Gauck called for a vote: 5 yeas and Mr Westhafer abstained. Motion carries. Mr Meyer then moved to make the Amended 144 retroactive to January 1st, 2018. Mr Hooten seconded that motion. Mr Gauck again called for a vote: 5 yeas and Mr Westhafer abstained. Motion carries.

The Council's next meeting will be February 20th, 2018, at 9:00 am.

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

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____