

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2017, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Larry Meyer, Judge John Westhafer, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters and Kenny Hooten

President Gauck called the meeting to order and welcomed newly elected Councilman Judge John Westhafer and asked him if he would lead us in the Pledge to the Flag.

After Council members reviewed the December 6th special meeting minutes, Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0. Council members then reviewed the December 20th meeting minutes; Mr Hooten moved to approve the regular December meeting minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Auditor Chadwell gave an update on the **2018 Community Corrections Grant** application.

School Resource Officer Rob Duckworth presented his request for \$14,000 in additional money in the **School Resource Officer Fund 4010** for the purchase of a vehicle. Officer Duckworth's current vehicle will be 'repurposed' for **Jail Commander Tony Blodgett** since he is a 'merit deputy' who may respond to emergencies and this is not an administrative position only. Mr Peters moved to approve the requested for \$14,000 additional money and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Sheriff Greg Allen presented copies of the **2016 Feasibility Study Report on the Sheriff's Office and Jail** to Council members. Sheriff Deputy/Jail Commander Tony Blodgett described the current jail conditions as well as the overcrowding. On this day there are ninety-eight inmates and another eight inmates are being housed in the Switzerland County Jail. Overcrowding creates shortages in providing necessities (bathroom and showers) bedding, cooking, even the 'visitation rooms' are being used for housing. A high turnover in jail employees is another issue facing officials. Council members agreed something has to be done. Sheriff Allen believes the Council needs to start looking at building a new jail. They need to get a plan together and decide how to fund.

Mr Meyer moved to approve the **2017 Salary Ordinance** and Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0. Mr Gauck clarified the offices that hire part-time help may pay an hourly rate from \$7.25 up to \$11.80 an hour.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the six requests for transferring monies from one appropriation to another. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Gary Herbert presented information on his request for additional monies for grants. Council members will vote on his request at their next meeting after the legal ad is advertised. He presented a ledger report for the last three months of 2016: **Tourism Fund 1127** has a cash balance of \$587,223.85 while the **Visit Decatur County Inc** fund in **First Federal** has a balance of \$162,328.27. Mr Gauck asked when the **VDCI** funds will be moved over to the **Tourism Fund 1127**. Mr Herbert discussed various events and rewriting the 'grant application procedure' for groups requesting financial assistance/grants.

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

The next County Council meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 21st, 2017.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____