

## Decatur County Council Meeting

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Room 106**

**Present:** Danny Peters, Bill Metz, Melanie Nobbe, Ashley Hungate, Deanna Burkart, Ernie Gauck and Kenny Hooten

The Council's January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was opened by President Peters; he asked Bryan Robbins to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(Meeting minutes and agendas are emailed to Council members the Friday before their Tuesday meeting)

Mrs Burkart made the motion and Mrs Nobbe seconded to approve the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**Auditor Janet Chadwell** requested the Council call an Executive Session to discuss her office's duties and personnel. Council set Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am for that Executive Session.

**Treasurer Diane Wenning** gave a Treasurer's report: interest earned in December, 2022 was \$88,408.23 and \$391,768.03 for 2022; \$3 million of the Special Purpose Jail's fund is now invested for 18 months on a 'laddered scale' with increments of \$250,000 at 2.34%, 4.5% to 5.02%.

There were 2 requests for additional monies in the **Cumulative Capital Development Fund**: \$6,000 for the purchase of a new vehicle. Mr Hooten moved to approve the \$6,000 towards the new vehicle purchase and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0; Departments' 2023 budget requests for equipment and furniture were moved from County General to Cum Cap, that totaled \$42,450- which was above the advertised amount for the 2023 Budget hearings. Mr Metz moved to approve that additional and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters told **Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** Council took the part-time appropriation out of her Area Plan budget, so no to her request for additional monies. Ms Duvall asked if she didn't need an additional, only transfer within her budget to pay for part-time and Mr Peters said as long as she doesn't come back for an additional anytime this year.

Mr Hooten made a motion and Mr Gauck seconded the motion to approve Departments' requests for transfers. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**Sheriff Bill Meyerrose** presented Council paper copies of the Commissary Report, as required by statute, which he had previously emailed to Council; the report included December, 2022 through January 16, 2023. He presented a funding request of \$119,525 for the purchase of body cameras for the road deputies. This quote is from **Axon** which offers interest free financing for 5 years. The first payment of \$43,000 would be due upon delivery in March. He hasn't received any word on a couple of grant applications to be used for the body cams. Mr Peters asked Council to research where they could find funding to discuss at their February meeting. Mr Hooten made a motion and Mrs Hungate seconded to approve the purchase of the body cams and find funding. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Sheriff Meyerrose told Council there are several vehicles in his fleet with high mileage along with higher maintenance costs. The Dodge Charger will be discontinued after 2023. He plans to include \$216,000 for 4 cars in his 2024 budget request. He introduced **Eric Blodgett as his First Deputy and Mike Eggleston as the Jail Commander**; he told Council he will be asking for additional monies for Deputy Blodgett's salary- \$53,000 base + \$10,000 rank pay- at their February meeting.

**Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** presented **Nipro PharmaPackaging Americas Corp's** request for abatements for real estate and personal property. **Shane Miller** with Nipro answered the Council's questions on the plans for expansion, which includes adding up to 12 employees per new line in the next 8 – 10 years. Mr Robbins stated **Westport Water** does not have an ample water

supply for NIPRO's expansion so, he's asking for the Council's contribution via a partnership by approving allowing 7-year abatements instead of 5-year abatements. **Westport Water and Decatur County Rural Water** are working together to meet NIPRO's water requirements. Currently NIPRO employs approximately 100 people, 2 12-hour shifts working 7 days a week. Mr Robbins cited Decatur County is chiefly dependent on the auto industry and in helping NIPRO helps diversify local industry. Mr Metz moved to approve a 7-year abatement for real estate and a 5-year abatement for personal property as long as employees are retained and hired. Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Mrs Burkart abstained stating Mr Miller is her brother-in-law. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Mr Robbins presented **Decatur County Ordinance 2023-1**, authorizing Decatur County, Indiana to participate in the establishment of a **Regional Development Authority**. Rush, Shelby and Decatur Counties would collectively be the members, who believe they could benefit from establishing a Regional Development Authority. There will be a 5-member board representing the 3 counties; Mrs Burkart stated one negative about the RDA is its Board would have the ability to impose a tax. Mr Hooten made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-1 and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten made a motion to appoint Mr Metz to the **Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC)** Board and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

A motion was made by Mr Metz and seconded by Mr Gauck to approve the **2022 encumbrances** as presented. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Council members discussed the report mailed by **Centerstone** since Commissioners didn't approve payment to Centerstone in 2022. Council still has unanswered questions from Centerstone and there are other State-certified entities who might better serve our community.

**Sheriff Meyerrose** told Council his department has been awarded the \$11,200 grant for the body cams. He received this info via email about 15 minutes ago.

**Highway Superintendent Todd Houk** told Council the Commissioners approved hiring **Jon Clodfelter of United Consulting** to assist him in applying for **INDOT's Next Level Preservation for bridge maintenance**. Twelve bridges have been identified to submit for these grants; each bridge is a separate project with an 80/20 match and Mr Houk asked Council for help with the funding if and when INDOT awards the projects.

The next Council meeting is February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9:00 am, in Room 106, in the Courthouse.

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

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Danny Peters, President

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

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

