

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2019, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, Bill Metz, Deanna Burkart and Kenny Hooten

President Gauck called the July 16th meeting to order and asked Councilman Larry Meyer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag

Mr Metz moved to approve the June 18th meeting minutes, Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0, minutes are approved.

Decatur County Sheriff Dave Durant presented a policy change only for the Sheriff's Department- Road and Detention Division- in regards to Holiday hours worked and also if his departments are adequately staffed, force those who have over 40 hours of comp time to take those hours off. Sheriff Durant proposes to pay comp hours as they are earned, eventually employees would not accumulate any comp time hours; thereby his department would not be operating in arrears to pay comp time. He isn't asking for any money at this time. The Holidays worked by the Sheriff's employees would be paid at a 'straight time rate' and they would receive 6 bonus days a year to use or loose. Commissioner Rick Nobbe told Council the Commissioners are in agreement with Sheriff Durant, so they advised he bring this to the Council- the fiscal body. The Commissioners would approve the policy change at their August 5th meeting if the Council approves it. Mr Metz moved to accept the policy changes for the Sheriff's Department on Holidays, bonus days and comp time. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0. This will be effective as soon as the Commissioners approve Sheriff Durant's policy changes.

Communications Director Erika Free also requested a similar policy change to pay Holidays at straight pay plus the 6 bonus days, to use to loose. Comp time hours are manageable at this time. Mr Peters moved to approve straight time pay for the 8 remaining County approved Holidays in 2019 and moving forward the Holiday Schedule adopted by the Commissioners plus the 6 'use or loose' bonus days. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0.

Sheriff Durant described the advantages of going from the current 20 year retirement plan to a 32 year retirement plan for his Deputies. Currently a Deputy retiring with 20 years receives 50% of his 3 highest paid years; expanding to a 32 year retirement would give a retiring Deputy 74% of his 3 highest paid years. Sheriff Durant has spoken to a representative with **McCready & Keene** who stated Decatur County's retirement funds are in better shape than most of other counties. The retirement fund is being funded at a sustainable rate, so to go from 20 years to 32 years would only require an increase of \$248 per year. Mr Meyer moved to approve changing the Sheriff's retirement plan to 32 years of service. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0. Sheriff Durant wanted to publicly thank Tony Blodgett for his 10 years of service with the Sheriff's Department. He asked for the Council's permission to make the Jail Commander's position a civilian position and reduce that salary to \$48,000. Mr Hooten moved to approve changing the Jail Commander a salaried position with PERF. Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0.

At Mr Gauck's request, **John Seale, Bryan McReynolds and Liz Combs of RBSK IT Consulting** presented options for them to expand IT services on a full time basis for the County, particularly the Sheriff's Department and Communications/911 Center. Mr Seale stated this would require more resources including placing a dedicated person on his staff or a contracted person. He did say the County is underserved by not having someone to spend enough time on high level services; he could tentatively submit a proposal on that in August. Sheriff Durant spoke up saying he has 3 computers needing configured and there's no one to do that. Mrs Free said her people are constantly doing a 'band-aid fix', so she needs someone 100% continuously. Law enforcement and emergency services are in dire need to fix problems/issues now. Mr Gauck asked Council if they wanted to 'untable' the request for \$27,399.92 additional to allow another motion for \$30,000 to hire a network technician, which commits the Council to fund a full time position in 2020 and is contingent on the Greensburg City Council does. Mr Peters move untable the additional for \$27,399.92 and Mr Hooten seconded. Motion carries, 4 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the additional of \$27,399.92, which is the County's half to the end of 2019 for a Public Safety IT person. Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0. Sheriff Durant assured Council members he will have a contingency plan if the City Council doesn't approve funding/supporting a full-time IT position.

Thrive Alliance Manager Sue Lamborn asked Council members to continue financially supporting the **Thrive Alliance (Agency on Aging)** in 2020; she requested \$15,000.

Monty Shields requested funding up to \$15,000 on behalf of the **Greensburg Adult Center**.

County Assessor Dorene Greiwe told Council members anyone in her office who works with assessing has to pass a Level III Assessor-Appraiser certification. State statute sets out each employee who has attained the three levels are to be paid \$1,000 per level per year. No additional monies are needed as funding is budgeted for 2019. Mrs Burkart moved to approve paying employees the \$1,000 per level attained and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0.

Erin Thomas and Jamie Brown of Lifetime Resources (Catch A Ride) requested \$5,000 from the Council in their 2020 budgets. The services provided are considered public transportation and they do have a contract with **DSI** getting workers to and from work.

Mr Meyer moved to approve additional monies- \$2,570.50- for the Prosecutor's intern which was omitted at the June 18th meeting. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0.

Having reviewed the various departments' requests to transfer monies within their budgets, Mr Metz moved to approve those requests and Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0.

Mr Peters moved to approve the 2019 Amended Salary Ordinance and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0. The amended salaries include raises for the Sheriff's personnel approved in February of this year.

Mr Peters suggested moving funding the Fair Board into the County General Fund.

The 2020 Budget Adoption meeting was moved to October 22nd at 9:00 due to several people will be out of the Auditor's office on October 15th.

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

The Council's next meeting is August 20, 2019 at 9:00 am.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____