

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 17, 2018, Room 106

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

Vice President Peters called the July 17th meeting to order. Larry Meyer led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Council reviewed meeting minutes for their regular meeting on June 19th and minutes for the special meeting on June 29th. Mr Hooten noted in the June 19th minutes, the amount committed by the **Visitors, Recreation and Tourism** to the **Stellar Program** is \$250,000 not \$200,000. Mr Metz moved to approve both sets of minutes and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

County Treasurer Brenda Dwenger introduced **Justin White of United Fidelity Bank** whom she has been working with for higher returns on investments. She presented her first semi-annual treasurer's report by first citing the last four and a half years, annual interest income was: 2014- \$46,114; 2015- \$44,614; 2016-\$42,018; 2017- \$24,145 and the first six months in 2018- \$74,050. Currently she has a long term (5 years) investment commitment with **First Financial Bank**. Mrs Dwenger is working hard to bringing more income in for the County, which she has done through investments and sending letters to delinquent property tax payers which netted over \$330,000. With the 2019 Budget process beginning in August, Mrs Dwenger told Council members the County has good employees, but our elected officials' salaries and their employees' salaries rank 86th out of Indiana's 92 counties. Council members thanked Mrs Dwenger for the financial information and her efforts toward improving Decatur County's 'bottom line'.

Decatur County Greensburg EDC Executive Director Bryan Robbins presented his quarterly report (April-June 2018). Currently he is focusing on community projects such as walking trails and other Stellar projects; he also met privately with Honda employees who live both in and out of our community to discuss their perceptions of our city and county. Mr Robbins has attended several conferences and forums about business trends; workforce development issues/career pathways and the hopes of plans for the expansion of broadband with the help of **Office of Community & Rural Affairs grants**.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Gary Herbert reminded Council members of the **Tree City Car Show** scheduled for August 24th-26th at the Decatur County Fairgrounds. On July 16th the County Commissioners approved Mr Herbert's request to use parking around the Courthouse on August 24th for the **Classic Car Cruise-In, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm**. The Tourism Board will consider four applications for grants at their July 18th meeting at 8:00 am. A \$15,000 grant was approved last month, by the Board, for the Parks Department to continue improvements on the ball diamonds.

After reviewing the list of various departments' request to transfer monies within their budgets, Mr Owens moved to approve the requests. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Auditor Chadwell presented information on possible budget items to include in the **2019 Public Safety LIT Budget**. Council members agreed some of those monies should be budgeted to relieve County General as was the Council's intention when they adopted the Public Safety tax. Budgeting for health insurance costs was also discussed.

The Council's next scheduled meeting is August 21st, 2018, at 9:00 am. After the regular meeting, Council will review all budget requests submitted by each department.

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

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____

