

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2016, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Larry Meyer, Geneva Hunt, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens and Danny Peters

President Gauck called the meeting to order.

Jeff Emsweller led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr Gauck asked for a moment of silence for the Orlando shooting victims.

After reviewing the May 17th meeting minutes- Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes were approved.

Bill Smith gave a brief explanation on the establishment of **Decatur County Visitors, Innkeepers and Recreation Board**. The **County Commissioners** established the organization in 1996 and the **County Council** adopted a 5% tax to be paid by the hotels/inns to **the Decatur County Treasurer** for deposit into the **Convention and Visitors Fund**. The original ordinance called for a seven member board and the operations were turned over to the **Chamber of Commerce**, who continued in that role until 2003-2004. In 2006 a 'private, not-for-profit, incorporated' organization was started to run the Tourism. Since this corporation was private, there wasn't any public disclosure on the spending of funds and the Executive Director 'answered only to the corporation', not the **Decatur County Visitors, Innkeepers and Recreation Board**. In 2013 Mr Smith was appointed by the Commissioners to the Decatur County Visitors, Innkeepers and Recreation Board to look at the operation. His concerns over non-compliance with State statutes led him to request a change in the name of the corporation to **Visit Decatur County**. This corporation- as a service provider- had a contract with the **Decatur County Visitors, Innkeepers and Recreation Board** for \$134,000 in 2015. According to Mr Smith, **Visit Decatur County Inc** has surplus monies in their bank account and are still making a \$30,000 a year profit. He has prepared a 'reorganizational plan' effective July 1, 2016. The **Decatur County Visitors, Innkeepers and Recreation Board** will control all aspects of the Decatur County tourism operations and programs using Innkeeper tax funds collected under Indiana Code 6-9-18. Mr Smith asked Council members to approve an "amended 2016 budget" for the **Decatur County Visitors, Innkeepers and Recreation Board** since Council members did not approve the **Visit Decatur County Inc's** 2016 budget in 2015. He promised to find projects to legally spend these dollars. Mr Peters moved to approve \$77,750 for Tourism's budget for the remaining six months of 2016. Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 – 0. Mr Gauck thanked both Rick Nobbbe and Mr Smith for their work on this project.

At their May 17th meeting, the Council had approved moving forward to increase rates for the County's surtax and wheel tax per HB 1001 for local match monies. A legal notice in the local newspaper announced a "public hearing" would be held on June 14th for anyone wishing to express their opinions. Mr Gauck told those present if there was any way to get monies for roads and bridges without increasing these taxes, the Council would have pursued it. He then asked for comments from those in attendance. Ms Gail Snyder stated the County's Rainy Day Fund has monies available to use for the 'matching grant dollars' required by **INDOT**. While she is not necessarily objecting to these taxes, a percentage instead of a flat dollar amount would be fairer in her opinion. Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr stated for clarification the Highway Department does not have its own Rainy Day Fund. One gentleman asked for the Council's consideration 'to exempt' antique cars since those are seldom 'on the road'. **Greensburg Mayor Dan Manus** again asked Council members to let Greensburg "get a piece of the pie" by only increasing the surtax to \$40. Mr Mohr said if the County 'backs off' \$10 and if the State would change the distribution formula, this might 'flip flop' on us. Mr Gauck read **Decatur County Council Ordinance 2016-5**, increasing excise surtax and wheel tax. Mr Owens moved to adopt Ordinance 2016-5. Mr Meyer seconded the motion. By a hand vote, 6-0, the Ordinance passed.

Due to a June 30th, 2016 deadline, Mr Meyer moved to approve **Decatur County Ordinance No 2016-6**, minimum internal control standards and procedures and determining materiality threshold for Decatur County Government. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passed, 6-0.

Mr Peters moved to approve all transfer requests and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passed, 6-0.

Mr Metz moved to approve the request for an additional in the State 911 budget and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion passed, 6-0. A \$53,134.32 overpayment on items for Central Dispatch was receipted back in the State 911 cash and the additional was to put that amount back in the appropriation line item.

Mr Gauck stated the Council does not usually meet in July, so their next meeting will be August 16th, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. After the regular meeting, Council members will review 2017 budget requests submitted by officials and department heads.

The 2017 Budget Schedule was set by the Council: August 16th – regular Council meeting plus review of departments' budget requests; September 20th- regular Council meeting plus the Public Hearing for the 2017 Budgets; October 18th- regular Council meeting plus the official adoption of the 2017 Budgets. Department heads will be asked to put in writing any special requests or explanations for specific dollar amounts requested in their 2017 Budgets.

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

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____