

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 27, 2017, Room 106

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

President Gauck called the meeting to order. Donald Gauck led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

After Council members reviewed the May 16th meeting minutes, Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

Superior Court Judge Matt Bailey presented his request for an additional \$1,000 to pay a bailiff for jury trials. Superior Court is expecting 10 to 12 cases this year and has already completed six trials. Judge Bailey also requested \$1,025.64 in additional monies to replace the courtroom computer and \$1,555 for the recording software, for a total of \$2,580.64. The Council will hold one collective vote on the requests for additional monies once they've heard all of the requests.

Sue Lamborn from Thrive Alliance presented information on the services and monies the agency expends for senior citizens of Decatur County. She stated spent about a half a million dollars in Decatur County last year. Ms Lamborn requested at least \$15,000 from the County's 2018 budget, which is the same amount the County Commissioners currently budget for **Thrive Alliance**. Mr Gauck stated her request is something they will consider at budget time.

Greensburg Mayor Dan Manus told Council members Greensburg has been designated as a finalist in the **Stellar Community Program**. The committee working on the **Stellar** application are working on lots of projects including completion of Downtown beautification, more walking paths as well as working with the County Parks Department to create an 'adult park'. If Greensburg is awarded the **Stellar Community Award** they could receive up to four million dollars, but there is a required 80-20 local match. Mayor Manus is not asking for money today- he will make that request at a later date. Today he is asking for a commitment of support, he does have an August deadline to submit 'letters of support' from various entities. Mr Westhafer moved to give the Council's approval and support toward achieving the designation of being a **Stellar Community**. Mr Owens seconded the motion and the motion carried, 5-0.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Gary Herbert and Tourism Board member Bill Smith discussed their request for additional monies from the **Visitors, Recreation and Tourism** fund which are carrying an approximate cash balance of \$660,000. The **Decatur County Fair Board** has asked the **Tourism Board** for \$45,000 to purchase portable bleachers to be mainly used at events at the **Grand Stands** at the Fair Grounds. Mr Smith believes the **County Fair Board** should have a 'memorandum of agreement' from the **Fair Board** the bleachers may be used elsewhere for city or county events. Mr Gauck stated he believes the \$45,000 should be paid out of the **Visit Decatur County Inc's** monies. Mr Smith explained why he disagrees since **VDCI's** funds were legally received via the **Tourism's** budget approval by the County Council and payment through the claims approved by the County Commissioners. Mr Smith went on to explain **VDCI's** ability to pay for projects which are outside of the **Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Board's** legal boundaries. He believes the **County Fair Board's** project request should be funded through the **Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Board**.

County Commissioner Jerome Buening and County Sheriff Greg Allen presented a signed recommendation to the County Council requesting they adopt a new income tax to provide financing for the construction of a new jail. The County Commissioners hired the law firm of **Barnes and Thornburg LLP** to lobby the **2017 General Assembly** to permit Decatur County to impose an income tax rate of .0065% for this project. They were successful as Decatur County was one of two counties permitted to adopt said tax. The County Council may adjust this rate per bid proposals. Sheriff Allen stated the Council is exposing Decatur County to a huge liability should they decide to look for alternatives to building a new jail. Judge Westhafer stated the 'drug problem' is spiraling out of control, going to have

to do something. Sheriff Allen introduced **Michael Goulloff of Elevatus Architecture** whose 'specialty' is building jails. Andrew L introduced himself and offered submit a proposal for services as a public finance broker. He would include personal and maintenance costs in his proposal.

Mr Gauck told all the Council would set an income tax rate for funding a new jail at their next meeting on August 15th. Council also set August 15th as the date they would review all departments' 2018 budget requests. The required Public Hearing for the proposed 2018 Budgets is set for September 19th during the Council's regular meeting at 9:00 am. The adoption of the 2018 Budget is scheduled for October 17th at the Council's regular meeting at 9:00 am.

Mr Gauck stated each of the requests for additional monies has been legally advertised: Superior Court- \$1,000 and \$2,580.64; Highway Department- \$190,000; E911 completion of radio tower- \$60,000 and Tourism- \$45,000. Mr Metz moved to approve all requests and Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr Owens moved to approve all transfer of monies with departments' budgets and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council will not meet in July' their next meeting will be August 15th at 9:00 am. Immediately following the business part of their meeting, Council members will review proposed 2018 budgets submitted by all county offices and departments.

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

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____