

## Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, Room 106

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

President Gauck called the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to order and Kenny Hooten led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Council members reviewed the February 26<sup>h</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Meyer moved to approve the minutes, Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Local resident Gordon Smiley told Council members the **Farm Bureau** sends surveys/questions to their members and this year's includes questions on the proposed airport. He offered to share the replies/results with the Council. He then asked Council members why \$1.5 million in **TIF funds** were going to the **Greensburg Water project**. Mr Peters stated those funds have been appropriated, but not approved. Mr Smiley stated those **Rural Water** users are paying fees for their water which covers infrastructure and the water. He then asked why the **County** is investing in a capital asset the **City of Greensburg** which the County has no control over. The **Rural Water** users are already paying for that water and then the **County** will be giving more money for water. **Rural Water** customers use less than 10% of the water plant's capacity which is roughly 150,000 gallons of water per day. Mr Smiley questions whether the County is using their assets- \$1.5 million- correctly; he asked for more feedback before these funds are spent.

Mr Metz moved to approve **Decatur County Ordinance 2019-3** and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0. This ordinance terminates **Resolution 2002-4** approving a lease between **Decatur County Memorial Hospital and Decatur County Council** levying a property tax rate to pay a portion of the lease payments. The lease was paid in full in January, 2019.

Mr Peters moved to approve **Tourism's** request for \$36,000 in additional funds for grants and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0. The \$36,000 will be split between the **Parks and Rec Department, the Fair Board and Main Street Greensburg**.

**Philip Deiwert, Director of Visitors Recreation and Tourism** is working with David Fry with **Greensburg's Stellar Projects** on two projects- an Amphitheatre and a splash pad at **Rebekah Park**. Mr Deiwert will be requesting \$50,000 x 2 in additional monies for these two projects at the Council's April meeting. Mr Metz asked how/who will the splash pad be policed against vandals; Mr Hooten asked who will be responsible for maintenance once these projects are open to the public. Mr Gauck asked Mr Deiwert to keep the Council informed as these projects move forward. Mr Deiwert gave the Council copies of **Visitors of Decatur County Inc's** By-Laws.

**County Sheriff Dave Durant** requested \$65,600 in additional monies (Public Safety- \$27,500; County General \$38,700) to give the Sheriff and Jail personnel raises in order to keep his departments competitive and to be able to more adequately serve and protect our citizens: Detention Center: Matron, \$1,000; Chief Jailer, \$1,000; 22 Jailers at \$1,000 ea; Jail Sergeants at \$1,000 ea for a total of \$28,000. Public Safety: 10 Deputies at \$2,500 ea and Jail Commander at \$2,500 for a total of \$27,500. Sheriff's Office: First Deputy, Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants at \$2,000 ea and Administrative Assistant at \$2,600 for a total of \$10,100. After some discussion Mr Hooten moved to approve the \$65,600 for increasing salaries, retroactive to January 1, 2019. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries as Mr Hooten, Mrs Burkart, Mr Metz, Mr Westhafer and Mr Meyer voted yea and Mr Peters voted nay- 5 – 1.

Mr Meyer moved to approve the requests to transfer monies within the budgets and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0

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

The Council's next meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:00 am.

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Ernest Gauck, President

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

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

