

Decatur County Council

March 20, 2012

7:00 P.M.

Present: Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Rheadawn Metz, Geneva Hunt, Kenny Owens, Larry Meyer, Kenny Hooten.

Council President Ernie Gauck called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the January 17th, 2012 meeting were read. Councilor Larry Meyer moved the minutes be approved with two minor corrections. Councilor Rheadawn Metz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner President Rick Nobbe – Emergency Management Agency – Commissioner Nobbe spoke on behalf of the EMA and shared the progress that has occurred under Interim Director Rob Duckworth's leadership. During that time, the ordinance governing the 911 Board has changed and has changed the make-up of the board. Mr. Nobbe asked the Council to consider making the EMA position a full time position. A job description was provided that listed the many functions that the position would be expected to perform and the other forms of assistance that the position could also provide local agencies. He discussed the many accomplishments of EMA and future projects and goals that the agency has. The position would need to be advertised. Currently, \$21,000 is being spent but half is recoverable. For 2010, the recoverable cost was \$10,500 and the county's cost was \$10,500. The suggestion was to make the full time position pay the same as a full-time Sheriff's deputy which would be \$37,900. The county would get \$18,950.50 of that back plus the \$10,500, which would leave a little over \$8000.00 that the county would actually be paying for the position in the long run. Mr. Nobbe basically stated that the County Commissioners had discussed it and felt that the position would be much more beneficial to make full time. They are prepared to pay the balance out of Plans and Implementations for a full-time position for the balance of 2012. The position would also likely require a vehicle. Councilor Larry Meyer commented that he feels the benefit from having someone well qualified do the job is obvious and that a full time position would be even more beneficial. Councilor Geneva Hunt questioned whether there was anyone interested. Mr. Nobbe reported that local emergency officials were singing the praises of the current Interim Director's efforts. Councilor Kenny Owens expressed concern that the salary may be a little high, especially for someone without a degree. It was commented on that there are several required trainings and skills that are necessary for the person to acquire. The EMA Board – Mayor, Danny Peters, Bryan Gatewood, Scott Chasteen, Mel Fox and the Commissioners would conduct the interviews. Councilor Danny Peters asked whether the city should be asked to contribute to part of the salary needs. Council President Ernie Gauck commented that he saw no problem with funding the full time position for 2012 through Plans and Implementations and someone making the request to the city for some help in funding in future years.

Storm Damage – Mr. Nobbe asked permission from the County Council to move \$158,354.42 in insurance money back out of the General Fund and into Plans and Implementations. The Council agreed.

Russell Wilson – Animal Control Issues – Members of the Animal Control Board, Westport Citizen Russell Wilson, Animal Control Officer Mike Wenning and Animal Control Warden Laura Johnston were present to discuss problems with dangerous dogs, differences between infractions and criminal actions and the flaws in the various ordinances concerning dangerous animals, nuisance animals and noise ordinances. Interpretation of and enforcement of the ordinances within the town limits of Westport and within the county limits was discussed at length. The issue stemmed from complaints lodged by Westport citizen Russell Wilson. Mr. Wilson did not feel he was being taken seriously after lodging several complaints. Upon being attacked by a neighbor's pit bull for a fourth time, Mr. Wilson stabbed the dog and killed it. Mr.

Wilson suffered serious bites on his left hand and had to go to the hospital. Mr. Wilson also discussed complaints that other Westport residents had in regard to barking dogs. Animal Control representatives discussed the reasons why they can't act until certain things take place. After much discussion of the topic and the ordinances, Council President Ernie Gauck stated that he could understand the viewpoint from both sides but that the problems would need to be addressed by more comprehensive ordinances before action could be taken. Mr. Gauck also suggested that if Animal Control doesn't have the power to do something maybe a call to the sheriff's department could help get issues resolved.

Mike Walker – TIF RDC - Mr. Walker came before the Council to provide an update on the TIF Redevelopment Commission's activities. He gave a brief history of how the commission was formed when Honda came. Mr. Walker mentioned that he had worked with the new Auditor to help her understand the make-up of the commission and the Auditor's administrative responsibilities. Mr. Walker presented financial outlook reports to the Council. He wanted to point out the positive impact that working with Honda and having the Redevelopment Commission has had. Council President Ernie Gauck inquired as to where the money gets deposited once it comes back to the county. It will be 2023 before the City starts having an excess. The money can be used for redevelopment or rolled back out to taxing units. It has to be used in conjunction with the TIF area on projects that help commercial and industrial growth. There are very strict guidelines that cover how and where the money can be used. Mr. Walker wanted to share the info so council would see there are benefits being reaped from having Honda come to town. He also reminded the Council that Honda bought the bonds and basically financed their own infrastructure.

Councilor Rheadawn Metz asked Commissioner Rick Nobbe when the courthouse would be paid off and he reported it would be paid for in 2014.

Councilman Larry Meyer mentioned the Lincoln day meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 22nd.

Mr. Danny Peters moved to adjourn. Mr. Kenny Hooten seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting date is April 17th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Ernest J Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____