

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, Room 106

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

President Gauck called the March 20th meeting to order. Garrett Metz led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

After reviewing the February 20th meeting minutes, Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Animal Control Warden Ashley Hennen requested a thirty cent per hour increase for the two part-time Animal Control officers. Ms Hennen explained the original hourly amount submitted for 2018 was \$12.10; but the Council did not specifically approve the \$12.10 hourly wage when the 2018 Budgets were adopted. The Council did however approve the appropriation for part-time help in the amount of \$11,462, which is sufficient for the \$12.10 hourly wage so no additional monies will be needed. Ms Hennen also requested the \$12.10 per hour be paid retroactive to January 1, 2018. After some discussion, Mr Hooten move to approve the thirty cent per hour pay increase for the two part-time Animal Shelter workers, retroactive to January 1 2018. Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

County Treasurer Brenda Dwenger reported her office has collected \$265,000 in delinquent taxes after sending letters to taxpayers who aren't current in their property tax payments. The 2017 pay 2018 property tax bills will be mailed on April 6th, 2018.

Mrs Dwenger introduced **A J Hillebrand of First Financials Wealth Management**. Mr Hillebrand gave a brief overview/analysis of the County's investment income for 2017 which hopefully it will be much better in 2018. Since **First Financial Bank** serves as a 'fiduciary resource' it means whatever he does has to be in the County's best interest. He has given Mrs Dwenger and her staff investment analysis on what 'portion' of the County's funds could be invested to provide more 'interest' income for the County.

Ray Sweet of Sweets Auto Repair and Wrecker Service told Council members the **Decatur County Sheriff** and his officers won't use his wrecker service. He stated he has talked to Sheriff Greg Allen to ask why and Sheriff Allen's answer is he lets his officers decide what wrecker service to call according to the situation. Sheriff Allen stated the only time his officers call a wrecker service is upon a traffic stop for false registrations or arrests; otherwise it is the vehicle's owner who chooses who to call. Mr Sweet believes local governments should take care of 'local businesses/people'. Mr Meyer suggested a private meeting between Sheriff Allen and Mr Sweet to further discuss this topic.

Decatur County REMC CEO Brett Abplanalp introduced him and his **Corporate Relations Manager Rachel Sullivan** to Council to let them know **REMC** is involved in our community. They are in the strategic planning for the long and short term (10-15 years) to improve the quality of life in Decatur County. Mr Abplanalp invited Council to contact him to help them in any way he can.

After reviewing the two transfer requests, Mr Metz moved to approve the transfers and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Mr Gauck announced the **Indiana Historical Society** reappointed **Russell Wilhoit** as our **Decatur County Historian**.

The **Association of Indiana Counties 2018 District Meeting** for southeastern counties will be April 5th at **Belterra Casino and Resort**, beginning at 5:30 pm.

The Council's next meeting will be April 17th, 2018, at 9:00 am.

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

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____

