

Draft

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, Room 106

Present: Danny Peters, Bill Metz, Melanie Nobbe, Deanna Burkart, Kenny Hooten and Ernie Gauck.

The March 21st, 2023 Council meeting was opened by President Peters and Dr James Howell to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(Meeting minutes and agendas are emailed to Council members the Friday before their Tuesday meeting)

Mr Metz made a motion to approve the February 21st meeting minutes and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Sean Durbin, Health Department Director, and Dr Howell, President of the Board of Health told Council their Board has replaced their outdated mission statement in part due to the implications of pending **Senate Bill 4** which defines core public health services. The new mission statement, **“To promote positive health choices, prevent poor health outcomes and protect community wellness for all Decatur County Residents.”** Mr Durbin asked for the Council’s support to do a 5-year opt-in plan as part of the Governor’s public health initiatives. This could bring approximately \$600,000 to the Health Department and would require a 20% local match which the Health Fund already has. The Board of Health would be required to maintain the current level of funding. Part of those public health dollars could go for health education and prevention programs which would help lower health insurance costs in the long run. Council members agreed to support this as did the Commissioners in yesterday’s meeting.

Animal Control Director Minde Myers would like to pay the part-time Animal Control person a flat \$25 amount when called out after hours. An additional \$2,800 will be needed to cover that cost. This part-time position pays \$15 an hour for regular hours. Ms Myers will get the paperwork submitted for the Council’s April meeting.

Mrs Burkart moved to approve the requests for transfer of monies and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Mr Hooten made a motion to approve the \$15,200 request for additional monies in the Cum Cap Fund for equipment. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0. The \$15,200 is from the Sheriff selling a vehicle which was receipted into the Cum Cap fund.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the \$6,000 request for additional monies in the Cum Cap Fund and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0. The \$6,000 was also from the sale of a Sheriff’s vehicle and receipted into the Cum Cap fund.

Mr Metz moved to approve the \$1,050 request for additional monies Sheriff’s office appropriation in the County General Fund. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Financial Consultant Reuben Cummings shared how much revenues would be reduced for the **Special Purpose Jail Fund** when Council changes that tax rate: 0.6000- loose \$349,176; 05500- loose \$698,352 and 0.5000- loose \$1,047,528. Mr Gauck suggested reducing the rate a little at a time to avoid having to increase it a couple of years later. Mr Gauck made a motion to start the process to reduce the Special Purpose Jail tax. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0. Council also plans to increase the tax levy for the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

Mrs Burkart presented Resolution 2023-3 for the Council’s approval. Council’s attorney Chris Tebbe did review this, saying it would be permissible as a resolution only. It is a joint resolution of the Decatur County Council and Commissioners serving as a formal letter to the State Legislators stating Decatur County’s desire to begin the process allowed by state law for implementation of a Food and Beverage

tax. An estimated \$300,000 to \$400,000 can be raised through this tax, providing a much-needed revenue stream for larger, long-term investments in the 'Quality of Life' projects, such as the community's public pool. Mr Peters stated this topic should have been made public before today to have input from county residents. The County Council will have control over these funds in that they will set the budget. Mr Hooten moved to adopt **Resolution 2023-3** and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Mr Gauck voted nay; Mrs Nobbe, Mr Metz , Mrs Burkart and Mr Hooten voted yea. Motion passes, 4 – 1.

Mr Metz announced he is entering the caucus for the position of District 1 County **Commissioner**.

The next Council meeting is April 18th, at 9:00 am, in Room 106, in the Courthouse.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Hooten to adjourn and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Council's regular meeting is adjourned.

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____