

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2016, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Geneva Hunt, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters and Kenny Hooten

President Gauck called the meeting to order.

Gary Nobbe led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

After reviewing the April 19th meeting minutes- Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes were approved.

Mr Mohr told Council members the State has increased their match dollars to counties, from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, as provided for in HB 1001. Since SB 67 directs counties to allocate seventy-five percent of the special distribution for **Local Roads and Streets**, it also permits the fiscal body to increase the surtax/wheel tax to the maximum amounts. Unlike the gasoline tax, the surtax/wheel tax dollars remain 'in the county- the State doesn't get a piece'. Mr Mohr stated the labor costs and the cost of materials have increased almost ninety-eight percent in the last ten years. He added if Council doesn't increase revenues, the Highway Department will only be able to 'maintain the roads' and he's not sure for how long. **Governmental Finance Consultants Kay Schwade and Reuben Cummings** both said the State is driving counties to come up with more local funding. **Greensburg Mayor Dan Manus** asked Council members to 'back off to give the City of Greensburg a chance to start a wheel tax. The City's population is almost even with the County's and the City's road mileage is seventy miles while the County's is over six hundred miles. **Greensburg Street Commissioner Mark Klosterkemper** stated if the City would adopt a \$30 surtax, the County would still receive the \$20 (per passenger vehicle) amount as they have since 2004. He went on to say the State created the 'distribution formula' for surtax/wheel tax which is part of the problem. Council members agreed they don't like how the State is forcing county governments to increase fees to fund needed road and bridge maintenance, but there is a timeline/deadline of June 30th in order to implement the fees to be effective January 1, 2017. Mr Metz moved to raise the surtax to \$50 per vehicle and Mr Owens seconded. Motion carried, 6 – 0. Mr Peters moved to raise the wheel tax by 30%. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carried, 6-0. Council members agreed to reschedule the June meeting from the 21st to the 14th which will also be the public hearing to adopt the surtax/wheel tax ordinance.

Ms Schwade reminded Council members there is a deadline of July 31st if they want to adopt a **Public Safety Local Option Income Tax**, which could help fund a new jail building in addition to other public safety departments. They aren't planning on 'adding any more taxes' at this time.

Mr Owens moved to adopt **Ordinance 2016-4 Blanket Bond** to allow the purchase of surety bonds to cover Decatur County employees. Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried, 6-0.

Central Dispatch Director Tiffany Bowling told Council she had paid a \$50,000 invoice to **Owens Communications** for some work done on the **Dispatch Center**, only to learn later that invoice was paid by the **County Redevelopment Commission**. She did receive the overpayment check, took it to the Treasurer and asked the Auditor to 'put it back in the appropriation'. She was asked to submit a written request for an additional- which after it is advertised ten days before a Council meeting and the Council approves the request- that amount can be receipted in the appropriation it was paid from. She will submit her request and attend the next Council meeting.

Local Emergency Planning Commission Director Tim Ortman explained the transfer request of \$1,500 is for an 'early pay off' of the County's portion on a module in the **Spillman Project**. The **City of Greensburg** and **LEPC** split the costs. After reviewing the other transfer requests, Mr Owens moved to approve all transfer requests and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried, 6-0.

The 2017 Budget Schedule was set by the Council: August 16th – regular Council meeting plus review of departments' budget requests; September 20th- regular Council meeting plus the Public Hearing for the 2017 Budgets; October 18th- regular Council meeting plus the official adoption of the 2017

Budgets. Department heads will be asked to put in writing any special requests or explanations for specific dollar amounts requested in their 2017 Budgets.

The next Council meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on June 14, 2016.

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

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____