

Decatur County Council Meeting

6:00 pm, 315 S Ireland St, EOC Meeting Room

Tuesday, November 21st, 2023

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

President Peters welcomed everyone to the Council's November 21st meeting; he then asked Mrs Burkart 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 meeting minutes for October 17th and November 6th and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters explained there was a glitch in Gateway for the 2024 Budgets that Council adopted at their October 17th meeting, so the DLGF is requiring Council to rescind that adoption and adopt the 2024 Budgets; there were no changes in the total dollar amounts adopted: **\$28,684,712 for the 2024 Budgets** which includes Riverboat, County General, Reassessment, LIT, Public Safety LIT, Health Insurance, Tourism, Highway, Local Roads and Street, Cumulative Bridge, Health, Statewide 911, Parks and Recreation, County Fair and Cumulative Capital Development and **\$8,221,983 for the Home Rule Funds** which include Adult and Juvenile Probations, ARPA, Emergency Management/Right to Know, Community Corrections, IT Dept, Special Purpose Jail Tax, Clerks Record Perpetuation, Drug Free Community, County Wide 911, County Official Training, Vehicle Inspection and Sheriff Tax Warrants. **The adopted tax levy is \$7,992,484.** Mr Hooten made a motion to rescind the adopted **2024 Budgets** and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Mrs Hungate then moved to adopt the **2024 Budgets** and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins presented **Resolution 2023-29, Final (Confirmatory) Resolution for the creation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Granting of Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement for Fletcher Power LLC, a Delaware LLC.** This resolution establishes an Economic Revitalization Area which in turn provides incentives to businesses via abatement of property taxes for both real and personal, with the Council setting the numbers of years the abatement will be allowed. An **'in-progress EDA agreement' with Fletcher Power** will require them make annual payments to Decatur County to help offset the lost property tax revenues for 10 years, beginning the year after the facility is built which should be 2026. Mr Hooten made a motion to approve the abatement contingent upon the Commissioners approving the EDA agreement. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Burkart moved to approve the **Ordinance 2023-28** and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. This ordinance allows the Recorder to establish funds to be paid from the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

County Clerk Janet Howell told Council she would like to pay each of her 6 Deputy Clerks a one-time bonus of \$2,500, using monies in the Part Time Help appropriation since a part time person wasn't able to work as many hours as Mrs Howell needed. The 6 Deputy Clerks stepped up and shared the extra workload and Mrs Howell would like to reward their efforts. Mr Hooten moved to approve the one-time \$2,500 bonus and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Mr Hooten, Mrs Burkart and Mr Metz voted yea and Mrs Hungate, Mrs Nobbe and Mr Gauck voted nay. President Peters had to cast a vote due to the 3 – 3 tie and he voted nay. Motion did not pass, 4 – 3.

Mr Metz moved to approve the transfer requests from various departments and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Gauck moved to approve the request from Animal Control for a \$10,000 in additional monies and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. This is granting money from **Pet Data Alliance**. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten made a motion to approve a \$2,000 additional for Animal Control and Mr Metz seconded the motion. This is also granting money from **Best Friends Network**. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the Sheriff's request for additional monies of \$2,851 in the Click It to Live It Fund 8002 and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. The \$2,851 is from the Commissary Fund to use as a match for a grant. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Burkart made a motion to approve the \$14,000 additional in Cumulative Capital Development for the Sheriff to purchase a vehicle. Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve a \$1,200 additional also in Cum Cap for the Sheriff and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the request for \$62,883.07 in additional monies for the 2023 Fair Budget and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. The appropriations used to pay invoices/bills for the Fair were in the red and this additional will correct that.

Mr Peters asked each Council member for their input on the proposed Food and Beverage Tax. Mr Hooten's constituents expressed concerns that this is not a good time to put another tax on and they want a pool that the County can pay for; need to table adopting the Food and Beverage Tax at this time. Mr Gauck, Mrs Burkart, Mr Metz, Mrs Nobbe Mrs Hungate and Mr Peters were all in agreement to table adopting the Food and Beverage Tax until the RFPs for the pool project are in and more information is available to make an informed decision. **Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich** read 3 emails she received because those senders wanted their voices heard. Several from the audience spoke in strong support of an aquatic facility as healthy benefits for community engagement and Decatur County needs a family friendly pool. Questions from the audience included approaching a real estate developer and has everyone forgotten the local YMCA has a pool who might be willing to be a partner for the aquatic facility? **Bryan Robbins, Park Board member**, said the County probably would not receive any Food and Beverage Tax collection monies for a couple of months after the tax is adopted due to the Department of Revenue setting up their side for distributing those monies. Mr Peters asked the Parks and Rec Department to set up pictures for the public to see proposed options/features for a new aquatic center. Mrs Kovacich reminded everyone they go to comeswimwithus.com to view what could be included in an aquatic center. Mr Hooten made a motion to postpone taking a vote on adopting the Food and Beverage Tax until Council's January, 2024 meeting. Mr Metz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs Burkart, Mr Hooten, Mrs Hungate, Mr Metz and Mrs Nobbe voted yea and Mr Gauck voted nay. Mr Peters voted nay, unofficially since there was no tie.

Mrs Burkart moved to approve the appropriation transfers and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 --- 0. (Transfers are on a separate sheet)

The next Council meeting will be December 19th, 2023 at 9:00 am.

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____