

County Council
Oct. 15, 2013 – 9:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting and Advertised Budget Adoption

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

President Gauck called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Owens to lead the group in saying the Pledge.

Mr. Meyer moved to approve the Preliminary Budget Minutes from September 10th, 2013. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Meyer moved to approve the September 17th Public Hearing and Regular Session meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Janet Chadwell, Circuit Court Clerk discussed the amount cut from her rebinding records line item and produced a copy of a bill that justified the budget request. Ms. Chadwell asked that the Council to consider granting additional funding next year if necessary to replace what was cut.

Ms. Dorene Greiwe, Decatur County Assessor reported that she had spoken with Sheriff Greg Allen, members of the GIS/IT committee, Fire Chief Scott Chasteen and various other representatives in the community about the value of having Pictometry fly the county. All agencies agreed it would be of value to their respective offices but that funding was an issue for them. She did say that since the contract with the reassessment company had already been signed that there would not be a cost reduction for the actual reassessment. However, the convenience of having the oblique images available for verification purposes for construction/destruction would be valuable to her office and the images and the ease of manipulation of the images would be of great value to the fire and police departments. The Council voiced their concern about the cost. The current state-ordered cyclical reassessment was discussed. The Council asked that Ms. Greiwe make the request again before the next reassessment contract is signed. Ms. Wenning mentioned that she, Ms. Greiwe and other office holders would welcome any of the council to come visit the county offices to see what sort of work is performed there and that offices would be happy to explain what their responsibilities are to the council since the council is responsible for so many financial decisions that impact these offices.

Ms. Wenning submitted the Solid Waste budget for the Council to review. The council questioned Ms. Wenning on what was requested the prior year compared to the current budget request. Council also asked to be reminded of who had taken over in the office. Ms. Wenning gave a brief explanation of how the Solid Waste office is funded. Mr. Hooten moved to approve the budget as submitted. Mr. Metz seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Gauck asked for a show of hands and the motion was unanimously approved.

Review of the County Budget requests began with explanation of where a summary of the overall requested amounts could be found. The Council asked Ms. Wenning how the proposed rates compared to the previous years' and she stated she did not know. She explained the resulting rates are what occur after the net assessed value of all property in the county has had exemptions/deductions applied and the budget requests have been made. After the council makes cuts, then the end result creates proposed rates that would create the amount of money that needs to be raised to support the budget requests. Mr. Owens moved to approve the 2014 budgets. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Gauck asked for a show of hands and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Wenning asked the board to please review the Treasurer's report that she had distributed at the request of Treasurer Mary Vail. The board commented that the report looked good.

Ms. Wenning asked if the county council had any comments on the most recent version of the proposed Personnel Policy revisions. Ms. Wenning had forwarded an electronic copy of the document the week before and provided a hard copy at the meeting. Council asked if there were any items in the document that Ms. Wenning thought they should be made aware of. Ms. Wenning pointed out that the document had been reviewed by multiple persons and a multitude of times and that the document is attempting to cover a variety of different employment set-ups between office workers, highway department

workers and law enforcement with different expectations from each. Overall, Ms. Wenning said that she didn't feel there was anything controversial in the document but that each council member had a hard copy in front of them if they would like to review it and comment. Mr. Gauck suggested that each member review their copy and if they had any comments to forward those comments to the County Commissioners on or before the next scheduled Commissioner meeting. That meeting date was given as Monday, October 21st at 8:00 a.m.

There was discussion of the next proposed meeting date and time. It was decided that November 19th at 6:00 p.m. would be scheduled with Mr. Gauck stating that he will check what is on the agenda closer to the date to determine whether a meeting is necessary. Mr. Gauck also mentioned that Council Attorney Lora Williams is working on a letter that he plans to have Ms. Wenning distribute that details what is expected of office holders when it comes to following the salary ordinance.

Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley reminded the council to sign the budget adoption paperwork prior to adjourning. Mr. Gauck read the proposed rates out loud and Ms. Hunt moved that the appropriation for the 2014 budgets be approved. Mr. Hooten seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Gauck discussed EDIT money and commented that if two or three of the levies were reduced the taxpayers would be appreciative.

Mr. Hooten asked about how the rates compare from year to year and Ms. Wenning reminded the council it is their primary responsibility to review and make recommended cuts.

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

Ernie Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____