

## Decatur County Council Meeting

**Tuesday, October 17th, 2023, Room 106**

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

President Peters opened the Council's October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting by welcoming everyone; he then asked Mr Paulson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mrs Hungate made a motion to approve the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters announced the **\$28,684,712 proposed dollar amount 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 Metz made a motion to adopt the **2024 Budgets** and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters announced the **2024 Budget for Decatur County Solid Waste Management is \$559,664 with an adopted tax levy of \$528,654.** Mrs Hungate moved to approve the 2024 Budget for Solid Waste and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** presented a proposed ordinance establishing and adopting a **Food and Beverage Tax** specifically for funding the renovation of the pool. Section 1 of the ordinance states one percent (1%) shall be charged by the retail merchant where food or beverage is furnished, prepared or served and that is the maximum tax rate authorized by the **House Enrolled Act 1454**. Section 5 states those funds may only be used for the renovation of the Allen Memorial Pool and the County Fairgrounds. Section 7 sets out the expiration/termination date at July 1, 2045. Mr Robbins added the expiration date may be earlier if and when any related bonds are paid off. Council set the Public Hearing for the proposed food and beverage tax for Monday evening, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the EOC room in the Annex Building at 315 South Ireland Street. Mr Robbins also shared a financial analysis report prepared by **Matt Eckerle with Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC**. Mr Gauck requested a "roll call vote" be taken so taxpayers know who voted for the tax when the Council votes whether to adopt the food and beverage tax ordinance at their November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr Robbins explained the rush to include Decatur County in **House Bill 1454** to be eligible to adopt the food and beverage tax was the **\$3,000,000 ARPA funds** earmarked for the renovation of the pool and fairgrounds which needs to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026; also, there would be a 2-year wait for the next budget legislative session.

**EDC Director Bryan Robbins** told Council the **Resolution 2023-22 (Fletcher Power)** adopted at their last meeting included an incomplete **State of Benefits (SB-1)** and the corrected one was not received in time to advertise for today's meeting, so he asked Council to re-adopt/formally adopt the declaratory resolution at their November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Circuit Court Judge Tim Day** introduced **Jeremiah McAdams** who was recently hired to be the **Chief Juvenile Probation Officer**. Judge Day told Council he plans to wait and see if a second juvenile probation officer is need to allow time for Mr McAdams to set up his office/programs. He plans to use an

established program called “Why Try” to utilize in the schools for truancy and the **Department of Child Services** may also use it. Mr McAdams believes there is a need in the community for intervention to give kids a way ‘up’ and he hopes by developing/creating programs, in addition to Why Try?, to help kids find success. Judge Day asked Council’s permission to use \$5,000 of the funds approved for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Juvenile Probation Officer for the Why Try program; he may use the remainder of those funds to hire an administrative assistant for Mr McAdams. Mr Metz moved to allow Judge Day’s request and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Robbins presented **Resolution 2023-27** establishing an economic revitalization area (ERA) for **Fletcher Power LLC** for the purpose of a battery energy storage system. Mr Hooten made a motion to approve the resolution and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Metz moved to approve the **\$280,000 additional in Cumulative Bridge** and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. The \$280,000 is the MVH Restricted Fund reimbursing Cum Bridge for Bridge 236.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the **\$6,118.83 additional in County General’s jail budget** for part-time help and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. This is money from Commissary reimbursing County General’s jail budget.

Mr Metz made a motion to approve the **\$600,000 additional in Local Roads and Streets (LRS)** and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Part of this will be used for paving for the new Highway Department and some for the Community Crossing Grants’ projects.

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

**Communications Director Erike Free** told Council she is restructuring **Admin in Dispatch**. Currently the chain of command is the Director, Assistant Director and a Supervisor over the 14 dispatchers. The salary study packets included a question ‘how could the department be improved’ and employees want the ability to have a more direct access to a contact and how complaints are made. Both shifts will now have a supervisor and a shift lead, moving the assistant director out of the chain of command due to her IDACS work. Both shift leads will report to their supervisors who will report to Director Free. The shift director will step back into the director’s roll should Director Free not be available. Discipline will go to the shift leads while suspensions and terminations will still go to Director Free. She presented this information to the Commissioners in their meeting yesterday.

**The next Council meeting will be November 21st, 2023 at 9:00 am.**

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

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Danny Peters, President

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_