

Draft

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 19th, 2021, Room 106

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

The October 19th meeting of the Decatur County Council was called to order by President Peters. EDC Director Bryan Robbins led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

A correction was made stating County Recorder Dottie Robbins would be paying for office chairs from the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund; she will transfer monies within the Recorder's budget in County General. Mr Metz moved to approve the corrected September 28th meeting minutes and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0. Minutes are approved.

An **Amended 144 Statement of Salaries for 2021** was submitted by the **Decatur County Park Board**. The Park Board voted to allow Teresa Kovacich to be the interim Superintendent at the same pay retiring Superintendent Bob Barker was receiving, retro-acting that salary to August 21, 2021. **Parks Board member Bryan Robbins** told Council members the board is in the process of reviewing resumes for the Superintendent's position. Mr Hooten moved to pay Mrs Kovacich up to the current Superintendent's pay and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0. Mrs Kovacich presented a quote of \$14,765 for the boiler replacement due to damage from the June 18th- 19th flooding. The quote may be more should **Turnkey** find additional issues when putting in the new burner.

Mr Metz moved to adopt the **2022 Solid Waste Management Budget** as submitted. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0. Council signed the **2022 Budget Form 4**.

Council was advised by Reuben Cummings, financial consultant, to reduce the 2022 County General budget by \$200,000, more would be better if the adopted budget would be around \$10,550,000. The proposed County General budget currently sits at \$10,937,714. Council members discussed what appropriations might be reduced. Mr Hooten asked **County Treasurer Diane Wenning** if there's \$200,000 available cash to tap. Mrs Wenning said there are investments which could be made 'fluid'. He suggested to send the budget through as is. Mr Peters began the discussion on longevity pay, \$200 per service year to be paid in a lump sum each December, for the Decatur County Jailers and the Sheriff's administrative supervisor and administrative assistant. Admin Assistant Teresa Reiger told Council she and Admin Supervisor Ashley Wilson could use 2 more people in their office. **County Sheriff Dave Durant** told Council the duties of the jailers are more since there are more inmates. The salaries need to be competitive, need an incentive for jailers to stay. Mrs Burkart questioned whether approving longevity for the jailers sets a precedent for other departments to request longevity, thus creating an ever-increasing financial hardship for the County. Mr Hooten suggested approving the 2022 Budgets and since the longevity for jailers requires an ordinance from the County Commissioners, let them decide to approve or deny the longevity for the jailers. Mr Hooten moved to approve the **2022 County Budgets** as they stand and Mr Metz seconded the motion. There were 4 ayes- Mrs Burkart, Mr Metz, Mr Gauck and Mr Hooten; Mrs Nobbe voted no. Motion passes, 4 – 1. The 2022 Budgets are adopted. Council members signed the **2022 Budget Form 4** which is required to be uploaded in **Gateway**.

Mr Gauck moved to approve the various departments' requests to transfer monies within their budgets. Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Mrs Burkart said a committee is needed to explore the differences in salaries in the Courthouse and see what could be done. Mr Hooten asked if each department head could be in charge of salaries for their people. **County Prosecutor Nate Harter** agrees with Mrs Burkart compensation does need to be looked at. Mr Gauck said all of the Council would like to give everyone a nice raise, but the tax rate sets what monies are received for the County 'to run on'.

The Council's next meeting will be at 9:00 am on November 16th, in Room 106.

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____