

Decatur County Council
September 10th, 2013 – 9:00 a.m.

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

The Decatur County Council meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 10th, 2013 in the small meeting room. Sheriff Greg Allen led the room in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kenny Owens made the motion and Geneva Hunt seconded a motion to approve the minutes as read.

Sheriff Greg Allen discussed the possibility of getting a school resource officer into the county school system. The most recent legislative session provided a two year grant aimed at helping schools get officers into their buildings. The school administration has approached Sheriff Allen about the possibility and he shared the details with the Council. The school would like the county to fund a quarter of the officer's salary. Sheriff Allen requested a line item in the Sheriff's salary requests to include \$9500 to cover the county portion of the officer. There was some discussion on how the city schools 'officer has been funded and how that program works. The officer would work for the Sheriff's department during the summer months. There was discussion on the cost of providing a vehicle to the officer. After much discussion, the council indicated it would review the budget later and see what they could do. No action was taken while Sheriff Allen was present.

The Council discussed appointing Rob Duckworth to fulfill the library board vacancy left when Board member Jami Rayles moved out of the district. After some discussion, Mr. Bill Metz moved to appoint Mr. Duckworth to fulfill the term and to be the appointee for the next full term. Mr. Owens seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Council Attorney Lora Williams was on hand to discuss some pay discrepancies that a State Board of Accounts audit discovered. Ms. Williams reported that the SBOA has just finalized an in depth audit of 2011 records. In the preliminary report that Ms. Williams and Council President Ernie Gauck attended with the SBOA, there were a few items that needed to be addressed by the County Council prior to the final Exit Conference. Ms. Williams explained that some employees were paid more than the salary ordinance indicated they should be paid. Ms. Williams explained the options available to the council and after some discussion, it was agreed that the Council would retroactively approve amendments to the 2011 salary ordinance to include the extra amount paid to the employees in the Auditor's office and would also retroactively amend the 2011, 2012 and 2013 salary ordinances to include the amount of pay over the listed part-time rate to cover what was paid out by the Clerk's office. Ms. Williams stressed the fact that there was no criminal intent in the higher part time rate but the mechanism that is in place to allow for extra pay had not been activated in the proper manner. She also stressed that many of the items being found by the State Board of Accounts are just a matter of things being done the same way forever. The current County Auditor, Tami Wenning, stated that as the SBOA points out areas where procedures aren't being followed, her office is changing their practices to be in line with what is required. Ms. Williams noted that the Exit interviews with SBOA should be scheduled within the next week and all that are involved will be notified. After all discussion, Council President Ernie Gauck recommended that the board retroactively approve the amounts. It was also requested that the payroll person in the auditor's office make the council aware of any future variations in what is approved.

Mr. Danny Peters moved to retroactively amend the salary ordinances for 2011, 2012 and 2013 to accurately reflect the amounts paid over what was approved in the original salary ordinances for the Auditor's office deputies in 2011 and for the Clerk's office part-time help in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Mr. Larry Meyer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Kenny Owens moved that a letter accompany this ordinance to the office holders. Mr. Danny Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Larry Meyer requested that the official record of this meeting show that he wished to recognize the 16th birthday of his grandson Donovan Meyer. Happy birthday to Donovan Meyer.

There being no other agenda items, the first meeting was adjourned by a motion from Mr. Owens and seconded by Mr. Metz. The meeting adjourned.

Ernie Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____