

## Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, Room 106

**Present:** Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, John Westhafer, Bill Metz, Deanna Burkart, Ernie Gauck and Kenny Hooten

The September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting of the Decatur County Council was called to order by President Peters who asked Carol Beck to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council members reviewed meeting minutes for the August 17<sup>th</sup> budget discussions with various departments, August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and August 18<sup>th</sup> budget workshop. Mr Meyer moved to approve all three meeting minutes and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters open the **Public Hearing for the proposed 2021 Budgets. Health Department Office Manager Carol Beck** asked Council members to allow the rate of pay for part-time nurses to be \$23.00 per hour instead of the hourly rate of \$13.25 for regular part-time workers. She also asked if the \$50,000 in the 10400, part-time appropriation could be increased. Council decided to keep that at \$50,000. **Parks and Recreation Director Bob Barker** told Council he's happy with the proposed budget after reviewed by Council on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Council members discussed ways to reduce the proposed 2021 County General budget per financial consultant Reuben Cummings. Mr Gauck suggested asking each department to reduce their budget by 3%; Mr Peters asked what could be cut from health insurance line items. Commissioner Rick Nobbe said Council may cut the Plans and Implementations (P & I) to \$75,000 in the Commissioners budget. The budgets submitted by department heads are 'very lean', asking for just what they need. Mr Cummings recommended to Council the adopted 2021 County General budget should be under \$10,000,000. Mr Metz asked County Prosecutor Nate Harter to explain Wendy Whitehead's salary since Mr Harter asked that \$10,000 of Wendy's County General salary be re-allocated to the base salary for Shelly Warfield and Sara Volk; in addition to the \$500 raise given to all county employees. Mr Harter explained his office has been working 'down 2 attorneys' for most of 2020. His 2021 requested budget includes salaries for 3 deputy prosecutors in addition to Deputy Prosecutor Doug Brown.

Mr Hooten moved to close the Public Hearing portion of today's meeting. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Mr Barker asked Council to 'redistribute' the remaining salary of his retiring Maintenance III person between the five remaining employees, for the rest of 2020; also include this amount in next year's salaries for those five employees. Mr Westhafer moved to approve the Amended 144, Salaries and Wages, as requested. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Meyer moved to approve the requests to transfer monies (within departments' budgets) and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the requests for additional monies to budgets and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

An Amended 2020 Salary Ordinance will be presented at the Council's October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting which will

include the changes for the Parks Department.

County Commissioner Rick Nobbe told Council the City of Greensburg is interested in renting office space at the Court Services Building due a complete renovation of City Hall. Mayor Marsh will submit a proposal for 12-18 months rent. Mr Nobbe plans to meet with the Board of Health to discuss 'co-existing' with City Hall in the Court Services Building. He told Council there are 3 people interested in purchasing the Board of Health building. Other updates include: expanding the parking lot behind the Court Services Building and possibly on the west side- reimbursement from the CARES Act and the PODS may be needed to quarantine new inmates, so waiting to sell to see what develops.

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

The Council's next regular meeting is October 20, 2020 at 9:00 am. This meeting is for the final adoption of the 2021 Budgets.

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Danny Peters, President

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

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

