

## **Decatur County Council Meeting**

Tuesday, September 20, 2016, Room 106

**Present:** Ernie Gauck, Larry Meyer, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters and Kenny Hooten

**President Gauck** called the meeting to order

**Parks & Rec Director Bob Barker** led the pledge of allegiance.

Council members reviewed the August 16<sup>th</sup> Budget Meeting minutes, Mr Meyer moved to approve and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion passed, 6-0.

After Council members reviewed the August 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting minutes, Mr Owens moved to approve and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion passed, 6-0.

Mr Gauck told the audience the Council had some budget work to do before he opened the "2017 Budget Public Hearing" for comments from the public.

Mr Barker stated he had emailed the Council members some concerns about budget cuts made to two appropriations, utilities and garage/motor. Mr Gauck asked what/where else would Mr Barker suggest cutting since **Government Finance Consultants** recommended adopting a budget at or near \$538,000. Mr Barker tries to maintain the parks and improve in phases, but the ball diamonds need upgrades plus normal upkeep. He has checked with neighboring counties on their swimming pool costs, which all operate at a 'loss'. The pool revenues have been limited due to the early start date for local schools- in the past the pool was open eighty-one days, now its open only sixty-six days. He is working with **Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Gary Herbert** on an expansion to the **Odd Fellows-Rebekah Park**. Mr Peters moved to move \$5,000 from the Part-time Pool Wages to Utilities for the 2017 Budget. Mr Metz seconded the motion. The motion carries, 6 – 0.

No one from the **Health Department** was present to discuss their proposed 2017 Budget since the Council instructed **Health Office Manger Carol Beck** to submit a revised, reduced budget proposal by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Mr Hooten stated if the **Board of Health** increased their permit fees, there aren't any guarantees the fees will 'come in'.

**Decatur County Recorder Denise Zeigler** asked Council members to approve a second full-time position for her office due in part to only full-time employees are bonded for handling monies charged in the office. Mr Peters suggested revisiting this next year for the 2018 Budgets.

Mr Gauck asked if anyone had anything else to discuss on the 2017 Budgets. **Decatur County Commissioner Rick Nobbe** asked Council members once the 'non-profits' learn of the budget cuts, if the Commissioners have unspent monies in their 'Plans and Implementations' appropriation toward the end of 2017, could they supplement/give financial help those entities? Mr Gauck answered 'no problem'. Mr Metz moved to reduce the **EMA Part-time appropriation** from \$20,000 to \$15,000; **Burial of Soldiers in the Commissioners' Budget** from \$10,000 to \$8,000 as well as **New Directions in the Commissioners' Budget** from \$15,000 to \$12,000. Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

**Health Department Environmentalist Sean Durbin** came to answer the Council's questions on what can be done to reduce expenses and increase revenues. Mr Durbin stated a minimum of four people are needed to operate the Health Department in order to follow the State mandates; currently ninety percent of the budget is salaries. He believed the proposed revenue (increased fees) would make up the gap between revenues and expenses. Mr Durbin told Council members to submit the Health Department's 2017 Budget of \$360,319 to the **Department of Local Government Finance**.

Mr Gauck opened the "Public Hearing" for any comments from those in the meeting. No one offered any public comments.

After Council members reviewed the department transfer requests, Mr Meyer moved to approve those requests and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 - 0.

Council members agreed to send flowers to Councilwoman Geneva Hunt who is in the local hospital.

Mr Owens moved to reduce the proposed 2017 Association of Retarded Citizens tax rate to 'zero' and add the \$60,000 appropriation/expense to the Commissioners' 2017 Budget. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 - 0. In discussing budgets with our local DLGF representative, Wayne Hudson, the Auditor's office learned 'zeroing the ARC tax rate' to put those monies in County General's budget would be 'a wash' (monies collected, monies distributed) and not affect County General's tax rate.

Mr Gauck announced their next meeting would be October 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a m and the 2017 Budgets would be adopted.

Mr Peters moved to adjourn and Mr Owens seconded. Mr Peters agreed to rescind the motion to adjourn since Tourism Director Gary Herbert asked why his 2017 salary was reduced to \$35,000, which is less than his 2016 salary of \$38,000. After some discussion, Mr Meyer moved to set the Tourism Director's salary for 2017 at \$38,000 and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 - 0.

Council members will announce their two appointments to the Area Plan Commission Board at their October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

The next County Council meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The **Final Budget Adoption for the proposed 2017 Budgets will also be held during this meeting.**

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Ernest Gauck, President

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

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