

## DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

August 3, 2020

### The following Council Members were present:

President Richard Ring  
Vice President William VanWye  
Member Eldonna King  
Member Robert E. Krafft  
Member Martha Grimm  
Member David Yarde  
Member Amy Demske

Others present: Auditor Jan Bauman  
Attorney Donald J Stuckey

Rick Ring opened the meeting with prayer at 8:32 a.m.

### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

David Yarde made a motion to approve minutes dated July 6, 2020. Amy Demske seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Cheryl Lynch was present and explained that this position was created in the middle of the job study being done last year. Also Ms. Lynch was trying to set the pay below the other nurse's pay in the office who has been there for several years. She didn't know who she would eventually hire and what kind of experience the nurse she would hire would have. Ms. Lynch believes the current pay of this position is too low.

Eldonna King made a motion to approve the Health Department's \$968 additional appropriation request to Full Time RN/1<sup>st</sup> Deputy (11468) within the Health Fund (1159). William VanWye seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF TRANSFERS**

Martha Grimm made a motion to approve the Clerk's request to transfer \$1,100 from Election Inspectors (11607) to Election Assistants (11606) and \$3,000 from Election Postage (33220) to Election Office Supplies (22110) within the County General Fund (1001). Robert Krafft seconded, and all approved.

Robert Krafft made a motion to approve Probation's request to transfer \$90 from Incentives (22555) to Veteran Court Part Time Coordinator (11637) within the Veterans Court Grant Fund (9153). David Yarde seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF SALARY & HOURLY WAGE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE 2020-OCC-8**

This ordinance addresses Soil & Water pay, job classification and FLSA statuses for the Department Head, Natural Resource Coordinator, Regional Technician, and Part Time Technician positions, and the pay, job classification and FLSA status for the Health Department's RN Full Time position. This ordinance is updating the titles and structure of the Soil & Water department. Current positions are not

changing. It is preparing for when the new people are hired. Councilman Krafft asked whether the Commissioners have approved the reclassification of positions. The Commissioners have not yet.

Eldonn King made a motion to remove the Soil & Water verbiage from this ordinance amendment and to reconsider it after the Commissioners have approved the reclassification of positions in the department. Robert Krafft seconded, and all approved.

Eldonna King made a motion to approve the 2020 Salary and Hourly Wage Amendment Ordinance 2020-OCC-8 on the FIRST Reading. William VanWye seconded and all approved. (This is for the Health Department portion of the ordinance only.)

Eldonna King made a motion to suspend the rules to pass the 2020 Salary and Hourly Wage Amendment Ordinance 2020-OCC-8 and read by title only on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Readings. William VanWye seconded, and all approved.

William VanWye made a motion to approve the 2020 Salary and Hourly Wage Amendment Ordinance 2020-OCC-8 on the SECOND and THIRD Readings. Eldonna King seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF SHERIFF'S COMMISSARY REPORT FOR JANUARY-JUNE 2020**

David Yarde made a motion that Council acknowledges receipt of the Sheriff's Commissary Report for January-June 2020. William VanWye seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF DEKALB COUNTY AIRPORT UPDATE**

Randy Fox distributed a brief of new and old business for the Airport.

The Airport is seeking approval to be able to sell Tax ID #06-10-19-200-011. This is something that was agreed upon when the Airport became its own taxing unit—that it would require Council and Commissioners' approval when selling property.

Second, they are working on another 5-year lease with a 5-year option with Paratus for 1-5, the large box hangar on the East end.

The Airport continues to work on a monument sign design for the Airport.

A local resident is seeking to construct a recreational pond under the guise of extracting peat moss thereby inadvertently leaving a hole that fills with water. The Airport does not oppose the removal of peat moss, just the creation of a new open body of water near the Airport. The Airport does not want to seek legal recourse to remedy the situation, but will if necessary. The Airport has legal recourse this time to appeal a decision by the BZA.

The Airport received notification that the County Road 62 extension project, although approved, may not get the grant funding as anticipated. This is because the CARES Act is currently using monies dedicated to the FAA.

#### **MATTER OF PERMISSION FOR AIRPORT TO SELL TAX ID #06-10-19-200-011**

With their meeting packet, Council had been given a map, property record card, and the two required appraisals for property with Tax ID #06-10-19-200-011. It is 5 acres and is currently assessed at \$49,300. Assessments came in at \$60,000 and \$57,000. Councilwoman Demske noted that the property address

used on one of the appraisals is incorrect and references a different property. However the Tax ID # is correct. Mr. Fox said he will let the Airport Board know. The property is no longer used and is costly to maintain. It was part of the crosswind runway that is no longer necessary per the FAA. The property has access on County Road 27. Eldonna King made a motion to allow the Airport to sell 06-10-19-200-011. William VanWy seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS-COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

**Possible pond to be built within Airport overlay:** This topic was discussed when Randy Fox did his presentation. President Hartman said the person who wants to build a pond is definitely within the overlay. The Commissioners are working on resolving this and preventing it from being built.

**Weights & Measures Inspector:** A new inspector was hired. Since the hiring of Pat Grant, the Commissioners learned the State must approve the hiree, and the position should be full time for a county our size. The Commissioners wonder if the position could cover more than one county since they do not believe there is enough work for one person to work as a full time inspector in DeKalb County. The person who the Commissioners had hired, Patrick Grant, might be willing to work as full time at a lower pay. Councilman Krafft asked whether this position could be combined with code compliance duties. The State may not allow that. The County cannot hire or fire the Weights & Measures person without State approval first. There are many issues to work through yet.

**Downtown County building roofs:** Larry Lane had the roofs of the courthouse, Annex building, Plan Commission, and 220 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street buildings evaluated. Hydrotech gave quotes so the Commissioners could have an idea of how much it will cost to repair them. The courthouse roof is in good shape and should only need sealed for maintenance. On an A-F scale, the courthouse received a "B." The 220 East 7<sup>th</sup> building roof is very poor on the south side, and it is ok on the north side. The estimate to fix this roof in its entirety is \$43,422. It was given a "D" grade. The Plan Commission building roof was graded at "C." Repairs would cost approximately \$27,000. The 9<sup>th</sup> Street Annex roof is very poor. It was given an "F." This will cost approximately \$70,000. The Commissioners would like to get one more quote for all of the buildings so fixing them can proceed. But, the Commissioners will hold off actually re-roofing the 220 East 7<sup>th</sup> Building for now. The roof repairs will be paid from the LITED fund.

**Downtown parking lot repair/restriping:** The 220 East 7<sup>th</sup> parking lot has been repaired and restriped. The Annex parking lot has been restriped. The Plan Commission parking lot has not been restriped because the lot needs to be designed for parking spaces as none exist currently.

**Law library to be converted into large jury room:** The judges asked permission for law library room to be converted into a large jury room that all three courts can use. The law library is no longer needed since online reference materials are used now instead of upkeeping the law books, so the law books have no value anymore. And, having the larger room will allow for social distancing.

**Contract of Central Communications' radio system:** A contract with Motorola has been signed by the County Commissioners. The contract is set up so it can be paid before August 1, 2021, without incurring interest. The reason why J&K was not used in the end is because J&K could not supply what the County needed, and the comparison of the two proposals was not apples to apples. President Ring commended the Commissioners for taking the initiative to research it thoroughly and reconsider their decision when they realized they were not comparing the same features between the two systems. They did not have to do that. Commissioners' President Hartman said he appreciated that.

**Covered bridge matching grant finally awarded:** The County has been officially awarded a matching grant of up to \$50,000 to assist with rehabilitating the Spencerville Covered Bridge. The Friends of the

Bridge had a fundraiser over the weekend, and the auction alone brought in \$10,000. They are nearing the \$50,000 goal they had set for themselves. The difference in cost will be paid out of the LITED Fund.

**Courthouse light posts:** The Commissioners have received one quote for repairing the 8 limestone light piers in the amount of \$38,250. A second quote will be obtained. It will be paid for out of LITED.

**Potential Highway property:** The Commissioners are waiting on the appraisals for the property just south of U.S. 6 on County Road 27. Outstanding issues include the pond and whether the wells still work. The Commissioners also plan to do a study for a stop light at that intersection.

**Proposed parking garage:** The city wants to buy our main parking lot and build a parking garage. With this, 15-18 spots along the street would be for County parking. In the garage, 30 spots would be needed at a cost of \$36.07 per month per spot, which is \$12,985 per year. The Commissioners believe the employees should not have to pay, and that the County should pay the rental if the County agrees. President Ring believes the County should not have to pay for parking. The price is going to continue to go up. Councilman Krafft believes that the County should work with the City and that the County should not necessarily be opposed to paying for parking. Eldonna King would like to see a very good negotiator deciding on contract terms. All agreed that County employees should not have to pay for parking.

**MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT**

Amy Demske made a motion to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. Second by David Yarde, and all approved.

DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL:

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Richard Ring, President

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William VanWye, Vice President

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Eldonna King

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Robert E. Krafft

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Martha Grimm

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David Yarde

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Amy Demske

ATTEST:

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Jan Bauman  
DeKalb County Auditor