

June 5, 2017

The regular meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Don Arendt at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Randy Schissel, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Charles Lore, Kirk Johnson, Dan Bellrichard. Absent: Gary Rustad

Motion by Luse, second by Carlson to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Herb Hageman, asked if there will be an opportunity for public comments on staffing of the fire dept. Mayor Arendt responded saying the subject has already been discussed at numerous council meetings. If there is new information to be presented comment will be allowed.

Motion by Lore, second by Luse, to approve items on the consent agenda items as follows:

- a. Minutes of the May 15, 2017 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Consider special event application for Live on Water Street event including closing 300 block of West Water Street on Saturday, September 16 from 7:00am to 12:00am (midnight) pending receipt of certificate of insurance
- d. New Special Class C Beer/Wine License for Luther College-Baker Commons including Outdoor Service Area and Sunday Sales
- e. New Special Class C Beer/Wine License for Luther College-Centennial Union including Outdoor Service Area and Sunday Sales
- f. Consider special event application for Decorah Municipal Band Community Band Concert, closing north parking lot (Farmers Market location) 7:00 am – 8:30 pm, July 11, 2017 pending receipt of certificate of insurance

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on an easement agreement with Water Street Professional Group, LLC for use of public ROW the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Schissel, second by Lore, to approve Resolution 2795 entering into an easement agreement with Water Street Professional Group, LLC and authorizing the Mayor to sign. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on vacation and conveyance of 175' of City ROW of Sumner Ave the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Ordinance 1200 vacating the south 175' of Sumner Avenue ROW was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Luse, second by Carlson to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Carlson, to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings and place the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Carlson, Schissel, Bellrichard, Johnson. Voting nay: Lore. Six affirmative votes are needed to waive the readings. Motion failed.

Motion by Johnson, second by Bellrichard to table Resolution 2796 approving conveyance of vacated r-o-w to the Winneshiek County Fair Board. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson, second by Bellrichard, to adopt Resolution 2797 approving a federal-aid agreement for the Oneota Bridge Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Bellrichard, to table discussion and action on a request to receive contributions on behalf of Decorah Power for a municipal electric utility feasibility study. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnson, second by Bellrichard to approve the following Mayor appointments:

- Human Rights Commission – Brent Parker
- Historic Preservation – Haley Jackson
- Civil Service – Annette Schweinefus

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Bellrichard, second by Carlson to refer discussion on state fireworks legislation to the Public Safety Committee for study and recommendation. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Consideration of fire dept. staffing was opened for discussion. Motion by Schissel, second by Johnson to approve the hiring of a third staff person and to amend city codes to reflect all three positions report to the City Manager.

Councilperson Lore stated he has concerns about this. Believes we need more input from the Fire Dept. When asked what his concerns are he declined to speak publicly about them but would discuss in private. He wants one employee to be a lead person who would report to the City Manager.

Tony Larson, 502 E. Broadway, stated he believes we have a great department and would like to see three drivers retained. Believes they should be able to supervise themselves.

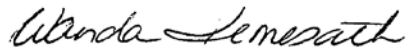
Councilperson Luse asked when any of the current fire drivers last received a performance evaluation. Bird responded he didn't know.

Mike Ashbacher, elected Volunteer Fire Chief, stated he would like clarification on whether or not the chief is a department head. He's called a department head but yet not listed on the website as a department head. He acknowledged he had been asked to do reviews but has no HR training or experience. Stated he was never offered training.

Bird stated his understanding that under this proposal the chief will remain the head of the volunteer fire dept. and the administrative person for conveying the volunteer department needs to the city. Fulltime staff will be under the jurisdiction of the City Manager's Office.

The Mayor called for the vote. Voting aye: Schissel, Johnson, Bellrichard, Carlson, Luse. Voting nay: Lore. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.