

September 18, 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, Gary Rustad, Kirk Johnson.
Absent: Dan Bellrichard

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

April Bril, Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission, gave an update on the Iowa Walking College initiative.

Jim Tripp, 403 Iowa Ave., encouraged the Council to move forward with the sidewalk project. He would like to see priority given to areas where there are no sidewalks on either side of the street.

Motion by Carlson, second by Schissel, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the Sept. 5, 2017 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Class E Liquor License for Decorah Mart including Class B wine, Class C Beer and Sunday Sales privileges
- d. Consider Resolution 2830 setting a public hearing at which it is proposed to approve a development agreement with Decorah Auto Center Inc., including annual appropriation tax increment payments
- e. New 5-day Class B Beer Permit for Vesterheim Museum including Sunday Sales
- f. Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: Backwater Spirits Liquor, 116 West Water Street – signs
- g. Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: Barbara Massman Realtors and Broker Leather, 222 West Water Street – signs
- h. Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: Edward Jones Investments, 207 East Water Street – signs
- i. Consider approval of a recommendation to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission
- j. Consider Resolution 2827 setting a public hearing on the plans and specifications, estimate of costs, and setting a bid date for the Court Street retaining wall reconstruction project (*October 16, 2017*)
- k. Consider Resolution 2829 setting a date for a hearing on conveyance of public land – Pershing Avenue, October 2, 2017 at 5:45pm

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Dave Stockton and Neil Shaw, Uptown Services, LLC, reviewed the results of the fiber feasibility study. Results of the study indicated this is not financially feasible for the city.

This being the date and time to conduct a public hearing on the proposed designation of the 2017 Commercial Urban Renewal Area and Urban Renewal Plan and Project (Decorah Auto Center) the hearing was opened. No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Rustad, second by Lore, to approve Resolution 2828 declaring necessity and establishing an Urban Renewal Area, Pursuant to section 402.4 of the Code of Iowa and to approve an Urban Renewal Plan and Projects for the 2017 Commercial Urban Renewal Area (Decorah Auto Center). Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1208 providing for the division of taxes levied on taxable property in the 2017 Commercial Urban Renewal Area was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Lore, second by Carlson to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson, second by Rustad, to waive the second and third readings and place the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Consideration of a site plan submitted by Spectrum Industries was opened for discussion. Councilperson Luse expressed concern about the close proximity to historic buildings. He suggested contacting Spectrum to discuss the possibility of a longer, narrower structure which he would support. Councilperson Rustad stated he had received comments regarding concerns with increased traffic in the area.

Motion by Rustad, second by Lore, to table pending discussion with Spectrum. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Rustad, Lore, Carlson. Voting nay: Schissel, Luse, Johnson. Motion failed

Motion by Schissel, second by Johnson, to approve the site plan as presented. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Schissel, Johnson, Carlson, Lore, Rustad. Voting nay: Luse. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Luse, approving Resolution 2811 rejecting the plans, specifications, form of contract and to reject the bids for the 2017 Airport Hangar Development Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.


Motion by Schissel, second by Carlson, to appoint Gary Rustad as the city representative for 2018 to the Winneshiek County Community Foundation. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

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

- Melissa Koch – Human Rights Commission
- Adrienne Coffeen – Historic Preservation Commission
- Keith Bruening – TIF/LMI Commission

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.


Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.