

October 16, 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, Dan Bellrichard, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Charles Lore (arrived during Utility Board presentation), Gary Rustad, Kirk Johnson.

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

Jarrad Walter, Telecommunications Utility Board representative, presented the Utility Board's response to the feasibility study. The board would like to continue to explore options for an economically viable proposal to remain competitive and to provide for much needed economic development. Specific ideas they would further like to investigate:

1. The CUB would like to re-examine the take rate (projected at 31%). The average take rate for Internet utility services in Iowa is around 50%. We want to explore if the take-down rate modeled in the study applies to Decorah by conducting an outreach with "pledge cards" where we ask residents if they would switch their service to a Utility offered service if the offering were and rate was competitive.
2. We would like to re-examine the human resource expenses to operate the utility by studying other successful utilities' models.
3. We would like to examine Smart Grid Advanced Metering. Perhaps a collaboration of our existing utilities can help offset our costs through a monthly subscription fee leveraging the FTTP infrastructure.
4. We would like to examine additional video alternatives. Video is an expensive but important component of what the Utility might offer the community.
5. We would like to examine whether or not it is feasible for individual businesses or neighborhoods to pay for "the last mile" and leveraging the Utility to own and maintain that infrastructure connecting them to the Decorah MetroNet and then to a service provide reducing the future comprehensive build cost over time.
6. We would like to explore new and additional possibilities to collaborate with the Decorah MetroNet.
7. We would like to meet with the city's financial planner to better understand what would be needed to build a business plan for bonding factoring results from the additional investigations.
8. We would like to coordinate ongoing community education to provide information on our work as a board and what a communications utility can provide for the city.
9. We would like to begin the process of formalizing the Utility.

Motion by Luse, second by Bellrichard, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the October 2, 2017 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Acceptance of original deeds and dedications for the Park St. R-O-W conveyed by Decorah Hotel Partners LP and Decorah Properties, Inc.
- d. Resolution 2834 relating to the financing of a proposed project to be undertaken by the City of Decorah, Iowa; establishing compliance with reimbursement bond regulations under the Internal Revenue Code
- e. Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: Cardboard Robot, 110 Winnebago Street – sign
- f. Consider special event application for American Cancer Society; Relay for Life 5K, Saturday, October 21st – various streets
- g. Consider PPE #1 – 2017 Asphalt Street Maintenance Project in the amount of \$28,809.18
- h. Consider PPE #2 – 2017 Park Street and Short Street Storm Sewer and Street Improvements in the amount of \$111,798.17

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Lore, to approve a Site Plan and C-3 Commercial Design application for Viking State Bank, 321 West Water St. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the time and place for a public hearing on the plans/specifications, form of contract and consideration of bids for the Court Street Retaining Wall Project the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Lore, second by Carlson, to approve Resolution 2836 approving the plans/specifications, form of contract and awarding the bid for the Court St Retaining Wall Project to Skyline Construction totaling \$85,519.54.

Motion by Luse, second by Rustad, to approve Resolution 2835 setting a public hearing on the plans, specifications, estimate of cost for the Dug Road Trail section of Trout Run Trail Improvement Project – November 6, 2017. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Johnson to authorize sending a letter to Alliant Energy requesting specific information regarding the schedule of the proposed smart metering deployment and to request they hold off with installation until after the issue of municipalization has been resolved.

Attorney Zahasky advised the current franchise agreement allows Alliant Energy to move forward with any improvements to their operations they deem appropriate.

Councilperson Rustad expressed concerns with telling them to postpone any changes and upgrades. Believes they are making an investment in our community.

City Manager Bird stated a representative of Alliant Energy had contacted him and would like to meet to more fully explain their Smart Metering Plan. He further indicated their intent to move forward with the project.

Several members expressed the desire to postpone action until Bird has an opportunity to meet with Alliant Energy officials.

Mayor Arendt called for the vote. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse. Voting nay: Schissel, Bellrichard, Carlson, Lore, Rustad, Johnson. Motion failed.

Ordinance 1210 amending Section 2.14 – Fire Department under Title 2 of the City Code of Ordinances was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Luse, second by Bellrichard to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Johnson, Schissel, Bellrichard, Carlson, Rustad. Voting nay: Lore. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1211 amending Section 2.48, City Manager under Title 2 of the City Code of Ordinances was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Schissel, second by Luse, to approve the second reading. Voting aye: Bellrichard, Luse, Schissel, Carlson, Rustad, Johnson. Voting nay: Lore. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1212 amending Chapter 1.24 general penalty of the Decorah Municipal Code by respecifying misdemeanor penalties was introduced and read for the first time. Proposed ordinance merely revises the code to reflect current state code. Motion by Bellrichard, second by Carlson, to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

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

An opening on the Board of Adjustment beginning January 1, 2018 was announced.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.