

**City of Decorah Economic Development and Community Betterment
Committee Meeting
Monday, November 6, 2017 – 6:30pm**

The City of Decorah Economic Development and Community Betterment Community met on Monday, November 6, 2017 at 6:30pm. Chair Dan Bellrichard called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Kirk Johnson, Gary Rustad, and Steve Luse. Others in attendance included Chuck Lore.

Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird.

Agenda

1. Discussion regarding housing programs and current residential tax abatement program

There was general discussion regarding the current housing tax abatement program. Bird explained the three tenants of the program, new construction, existing structure improvements and commercial improvements.

Bird and local developer and realtor Tade Kerndt stated that the overall goal was to get some type of construction started.

There was a discussion about the true nature of affordable housing with debate about the definition and as to whether the current program really was an affordable housing program.

The committee agreed to recommend renewal of the program, keeping all the current terms in place, with one exception; lifting the current \$400,000 cap and not implementing any ceiling on improvements for eligibility.

2. Discussion regarding building and trades codes

There was general discussion regarding building codes with much discussion on the pros and cons of implementing such a code.

Bird discussed some of the options and noted a code, if adopted must have an administrative component and noted a third party could be hired to inspect construction and administer the code.

After continued discussion, there was no action recommended.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

