

February 19, 2018

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Randy Schissel, Dan Bellrichard, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Johanna Bergan, Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson.

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

Melissa Koch, Human Rights Commission, reviewed their past year activities

Lyle Otte, Emily Neal, representing Decorah Power, presented a document supporting a May referendum for the municipal electric utility with 727 signatures.

James Kaufman and Andrea Vazquez spoke regarding noise issues affecting our sound scape identifying 3 sources of invasive noise – car stereos, illegal exhaust systems and 9 machines on the roof of the Casey's building on College Dr.

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

- a. Minutes of the February 5, 2018 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. CO #1 Hwy 9 Park Street Lighting - \$2,016.00
- d. PPE #3 - FINAL Hwy 9 Park Street Lighting - \$17,432.40
- e. Resolution 2867 accepting the Hwy 9 Park Street Lighting Project as complete
- f. PPE #2 Court St Retaining Wall Imp - \$15,002.90
- g. New Class B Beer Permit for Winneshiek Co. Ag including Outdoor Service Area and Sunday Sales
- h. Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: 606 West Water Street and State Street & East Water Street, *Verizon Wireless*
- i. Resolution 2866, setting a public hearing on zoning code amendments – rezoning of property; 3chicsrental, LLC, 2072 State Highway 9 West to C-1 Highway Commercial zoning district, *March 5, 2018 at 5:45pm*
- j. Resolution 2865, setting a date for a public hearing on zoning code amendments – rezoning of property; TNT Properties, LLC, 2700 College Drive to R-1 Single Family Residential zoning district, *March 5, 2018 at 5:45pm*

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Bellrichard, second by Johnson, to recall the appointment of council liaison to the Decorah Power Committee. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution 2868 calling for a special election to establish a municipally owned electric utility was opened.

Mayor Borowski opened the discussion by reviewing the February 13, 2018 work session. Topics discussed: Referendum timing/question, establishment of Board of Trustees, 3rd feasibility study, current franchise agreement and possible negotiations for a new agreement and financial considerations.

She voiced concern about the aggressive time frame and not having much time to review and expressed that it was a sense of frustration for her.

Councilperson Luse believes we should get the community's feeling before incurring more expense.

Councilperson Bellrichard stated it would make it easier if we have 100% reliable numbers. Doesn't think that's possible so we may as well move forward with the referendum.

Motion by Luse, second by Johnson, to approve Resolution 2868 calling for a special election to establish a municipally-owned electric utility. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Johnson, Bellrichard, Carlson, Bergan, Hadley. Voting nay: Schissel. Motion carried.

Motion by Hadley, second by Luse, to adopt Resolution 2869 approving the form of contract and award the bid for the RCB Box Culvert for the Dry Run Trail Extension Improvement Project to Wicks Construction, \$502,095.58. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1215 amending Chapter 17.16 relating to sign regulations was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Bellrichard, second by Carlson to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1216 amending Chapter 17.16 regarding accessory buildings was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Carlson, second by Bergan to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Hadley to waive the required number of readings and place the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Hadley, Bergan. Voting nay: Schissel, Carlson, Bellrichard, Johnson. Motion failed.

Motion by Bellrichard, second by Bergan to approve the 2018 Farmers' Market Agreement. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Mike Huluska, Supt. Decorah Schools, Nick Hildebrandt, Emergent Architecture, Brian Petersburg, School Board Member, Mark Lovelace, Shareholder, presented a proposal for an elementary school site.

They reviewed the planning process, reasons for site selection and the new design/layout of the proposed facility.

The offer presented by the District included:

City receives:

\$700,000

Ownership of approximately 28 acres which includes the dike and extends to the north adjoining other city own property

Reversion clause if no longer a school

Establish long-term joint use agreements

School receives:

City land between Claiborne & Heivly Streets

City land east of Goose Island Drive and south of the dike

(these combined areas include 2 city softball diamonds, part of the baseball field, and a parking lot.)

Joint benefit:

Cleanup of small right-of-way parcels proposed by the City Engineer

Proposal subject to passage of school bond referendum.

They issued an invitation to collaborate to address mutual concerns though it was made clear site location was not open to negotiation. Proposed Task Force to include:

2 city council members

2 school district representatives

Park and Recreation Director

Mayor Borowski said the council would take the presentation under consideration.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC

City Clerk, Tr.