

July 16, 2018

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Martin Donovan, Luther College intern, has been working on asset mapping for the sustainability plan using the STAR Community Rating Program. He explained the program and the progress he is making.

Motion by Hadley, second by Bergan, to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

- a. Minutes of the July 2, 2018 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Special Class C Beer/Wine License for Koreana including Sunday Sales
- d. New 5-day Class C Liquor License for Winneshiek Co. Ag including outdoor service area
- e. Consider Resolution 2894 setting a date for a public hearing on a lease agreement with Gundersen Health Systems for August 6, 2018, 5:45 p.m.
- f. CO #3 Trout Run Trail Restoration – Dug Road – \$17,430.60

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on the preliminary plans/specs, assessment schedule and cost estimate for the Decorah 2018 Street Alley Improvement Project the hearing was opened.

Richard Simon Hanson, 905 W Pearl Street, stated only 4 residents use the alley. Those 4 residents see no need for improvements and would rather have gravel.

Jim Beeghly, 900 Walnut, stated his support for alley improvement. He and his wife purchased their home due to the natural beauty of the area and the proximity to Phelps Park. He has concerns about 4 oak trees, being upwards of 70 years old. Does not want anything done that would disturb the roots, thereby damaging the trees. Would like to see those trees preserved.

Roger Gavle, 904 Walnut Street, believes alley improvement is completely unnecessary. The 4 oak trees are on his property.

Mike Gomersall, 702 Park Street, stated his support of his neighbors' comments. Believes this is being done because a full-size snow plow is having difficulty getting through the alley.

Ted Scheidel, speaking on behalf of Alice Scheidel, 208 Highland Drive, asked numerous questions about what the assessment is based on, width of improvement, and wondered if oil & chips would be an acceptable surface. He also voiced concern with water flow.

Erdman explained the assessment amount is based on the frontage to the alley and based on 4' asphalt surface. Further, the alley is to remain 20' wide.

Betsy Busch, 207 Highland Dr., is concerned with the assessment. Believes it will be a significant hardship on her. Further, the bidding process bothers her as contractors know what the cost estimate is, which gives them an advantage in the bidding process.

Kelly Reagan, 211 Highland Dr., stated his belief that this is not an alley – it is actually a road - a public street. He is very supportive of the project.

Jarrod Walter, 717 Winneshiek Ave, supports improvement of the alleys in his neighborhood.

Discussion was held on the benefits of asphalt over seal coating regarding the Walnut Street Alley. This alley has been seal coated in the past but it is gone now. Drainage solutions are very difficult with seal coat surface.

Discussions was held on concerns regarding the trees. Erdman stated design work has been done to ensure we are as minimally evasive as possible. Everything possible will be done to avoid root damage but can't promise trees won't be stressed.

Jim Beeghly, 900 Walnut Street, stated he has no objections given the willingness to accommodate the trees.

Deb Edwards, 702 Park Street, stated her concern about the trees and wondered if they city will pay for the trees if they die.

Motion by Hadley, second by Bellrichard, to adopt Resolution 2893 approving the preliminary plans/specs, Resolution of Necessity and cost estimates for the construction of the 2018 Street and Alley Improvement Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

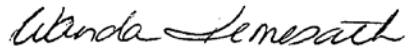
Motion by Bellrichard, second by Johnson, to approve Resolution 2895 setting August 6, 2018, 5:45 pm as the date and time for a public hearing on the final plans/specs, estimate of cost and setting a bid date of Aug. 3, 2018 for the 2018 Street and Alley Improvement Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Hadley, to approve Resolution 2896 acknowledging receipt of an application for voluntary annexation from Echo Development (Olson property), and authorizing the City to proceed as specified in Chapter 368 of the Code of Iowa. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnson, second by Schissel, to approve the Mayor appointment of Steve Kelsey to the Historic Preservation Commission. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Presentations regarding the Locust Road Improvement program were given by McClure Engineering Company and MSA Professional Services.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.