

**City of Decorah Council Work session
Monday, February 25, 2019 – 5:15pm**

The City Council met in a work session on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 5:15pm. Mayor Lorraine Borowski called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Randy Schissel, Dan Bellrichard, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Ross Hadley, Johanna Bergan, and Kirk Johnson.

Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird, City Clerk / Treasurer Wanda Hemesath, Assistant City Attorney John Anderson and Economic Development Director Stephanie Fromm.

Agenda

Discussion on housing initiatives

Mayor Borowski opened the meeting by introducing Jeremy Jostand from Northeast Iowa Community Action Corp. Jostand distributed several handouts and documents regarding housing initiatives and programs that may be available to the City for housing.

There was general conversation about steps in housing discussions including, identifying and meeting with developers, reviewing state level programs, identifying a housing team for local conversations. The list was further expanded to include attorneys, tax credit professionals, land owners, and land developers.

Luse shared some of the conversation talking points regarding the Main Street Iowa program and how the program may affect housing discussions.

The Mayor suggested a continued conversation with Jostand and could an investor be engaged in project development.

The council thanked Jostand for his knowledge and time.

Discussion on economic development / TIF rebate application

1. Quillin's store redevelopment

Mayor Borowski engaged the council in this discussion by starting with general project overview and economic development talking points.

Bellrichard asked if Fromm would address the council on some of the finer points of the project. Fromm outlined the project for the council and Bellrichard began to ask a few qualifying questions.

There was a comment that if this project went forward, that might be the end of further development incentives for that Southwest section of the community.

There was further discussion and debate about the project and no decisions or consensus was reached.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.
Respectfully submitted,

