

March 4, 2019

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, Kirk Johnson, Johanna Bergan, Dan Bellrichard, Ross Hadley. Councilperson Luse arrived after the roll was called.

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

Kristina Wiltgen, Hotel/Motel Marketing Committee, gave an update on their activities.

Jarrad Walter, Telecommunications Utility Commission, gave an update on the status of creating a telecommunications utility. Studies have shown it is not fiscally feasible for the city to undertake this endeavor on its' own. He requested the city allow the following actions:

- Commission to remain active
- Create a legal vehicle for donations to be made
- Adopt a policy to put in underground conduit in new subdivisions
- Enter into a franchise agreement with Alliant Energy to enable a possible partnership between the City and Alliant to create a telecommunications utility.

No action taken.

Motion by Bellrichard, second by Schissel, to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- a. Minutes of the February 18, 2019 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. New Special Class C Beer/Wine permit for Java John's including Sunday Sales
- d. Renewal Class C Liquor License for Don Jose including Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service Area privileges
- e. Special Event Application for Clover Dash 5K for Organ Donor Awareness April 27

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on the proposed FY20 budget the hearing was opened. City Clerk, Tr. Hemesath reviewed the different aspects of the budget.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Schissel, second by Bellrichard, to adopt Resolution 2942 approving the FY20 budget as presented including the proposed FY20 salary matrix for non-union and exempt personnel based on the adopted compensation plan. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hadley, second by Bellrichard, to approve the 2019 Street Improvement Project list. Becky Swehla Smedsrud, 409 Sunrise Blvd., voiced concerns about improvements to the Broadway/Winnebago Street intersection. She feels the bump outs will unnecessarily narrow the streets. She voiced safety concerns for children and also taking parking from handicapped individuals. Also, where the bump outs will be is where the hearse parks for funerals. It will make it more difficult for the funeral directors and limit parking overall.

The money could easily be used to make necessary repairs to streets. We need to take care of current roads and alleys.

Councilperson Schissel concurred with Ms Smedsrud. When we have so many streets/alleys in need of repairs these types of projects should wait until we have extra money.

The Mayor called for the vote. Voting aye: Hadley, Bellrichard, Carlson, Luse, Bergan, Johnson. Voting nay: Schissel. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1232 pertaining to trees and shrubbery was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Hadley, second by Bergan to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Luse, second by Bergan, to adopt Resolution 2941 approve the 2019 Decorah Sidewalk Improvement Project. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Bergan, Schissel, Bellrichard, Hadley, Johnson. Voting nay: Carlson. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1233 amending subdivision plat utility easement requirements was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Bellrichard, second by Schissel to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hadley, second by Carlson, to approve the Mayor appointment of Brent Steinhofer to the SSMID Board. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Authorization to publish notice seeking RFP's to conduct a search for the position of Police Chief was opened for discussion.

Mayor Borowski gave her thoughts on why she is in favor of moving forward with the hiring of a new chief. She is against the merging of the Decorah Police Department with the Winneshiek County Sheriff's

Department due to key governmental differences and the decision could be affected by political tides. She is not willing to compromise city law enforcement.

Attorney Anderson stated the Chief of Police is a Mayor appointment with Council approval. He explained law enforcement can be provided by a 28E agreement between the city and county. He further explained the civil service process which needs to be followed for the hiring of a new chief.

Councilperson Johnson said he is not prepared to make a decision on this. He believes we should continue discussion on consolidation and wants to hear more from the public.

Councilperson Carlson concurred with Mayor Borowski and stated this action is only asking for RFP's.

Councilperson Schissel doesn't believe City intention has been clear. We are not looking to lesson coverage but improve internal efficiencies.

Councilperson Bergan states her agreement with Johnson that we need more input. Believes we are being asked to make a decision absent discussion and that there is an imbalance in scenarios if we move forward with this action.

After lengthy discussion it was moved by Bellrichard, seconded by Carlson to authorize the City Manager to solicit RFP's to conduct a search for the position of Police Chief – one for just testing and one to include a search aspect. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Bellrichard, Carlson, Schissel, Bergan, Hadley, Johnson. Voting nay: Luse. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.