

**City of Decorah Economic Development and Property Committee Meeting
Monday, May 20, 2019 – 6:30pm.**

Immediately following the regular session of the City Council (actual start – 7:08pm)

The City of Decorah Economic Development and Property Committee met on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7:08pm. Chairman Dan Bellrichard called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson, and Steve Luse. Mayor Lorraine Borowski, Randy Schissel, Johanna Bergan, and Andy Carlson were also in attendance. Others in attendance: Staff, City Clerk Wanda Hemesath and City Manager Chad Bird.

Agenda

Discussion regarding a proposed veterans' memorial park

Decorah area veterans led by Glen Larson presented a plan they are working on to design a veteran's memorial park in Decorah. The group has looked at several sites in town; Mary Christopher Park, in front of the city hall / municipal building etc. Larson noted they like the area in front of city hall / municipal building.

Bergan asked if the group had spoken with those working on the new park concept on East Water Street. Larson noted they had and were not real fond of the location, they believed it too small.

Larson noted the group would be responsible for all fund raising and provide for maintenance.

There was additional conversation with some asking about the school and other sites.

The committee asked the veterans to again review the park concept and location on East Water Street and report back at a later time.

There was general support for the area in front of city hall.

Discussion regarding an offer to purchase public real estate

Bird noted he had received a proposal from the landowner adjoining a parcel next to the Dry Run Diversion Channel. Bird noted the owner is proposing to make an offer to purchase. The offer to purchase is approximately \$1,500 - \$2,000 plus the costs of survey work etc.

Bird share a recent comparable land appraisal. He noted the appraisal the city commissioned was \$1,500. That appraisal indicated a possible square foot price of approximately \$1.07 for similarly suited public land. He noted this would suggest a possible sale price of \$30,000.

Bird also shared Parks & Recreation Board and city staff have recommended the city retain ownership of the land.

*The Planning & Zoning Commission recommended the city consider selling the land.
Per city code - 2.26.030 – Powers.*

Bird conclude a review to the committee by saying staff does not recommend the council sell the land for the following reasons:

The land is so close to the levee / diversion channel system as to create concerns over access to such structures.

The land is adjacent to other city land / park space that future uses, as yet unforeseen may arise when the land may have public value.

With the pending Oneota Drive Bridge Improvement Project, there may be need for use of the land, either temporarily or permanently.

The land, while in, near, and around residential uses, is actually zoned F-1 Flood Plain. For the potential buyer to consider building another residence would require a rezoning to a residential use.

The committee agreed that is not in the city's interests to explore the offer any further.

Discussion and review of Fox & Coon Club lease, *renewal June 2019*

Bird noted the city's lease with the Fox & Coon Club expires June 30, 2019. He shared in discussion with the Club, staff recommends renewing the lease for the same terms. There was discussion about the lease amount and Bird recommended a fairer market value would be to match closely the amount the city recently agreed to with the Farmer's Market. The committee recommended \$25.00 per month and a five-year lease.

Discussion regarding housing and Project 360

Luse and Hadley shared information on this very specific housing program and there was general discussion regarding housing in the community.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,