

**City of Decorah Economic Development and Property Committee Meeting  
Monday, August 26, 2019**

*Immediately following the regular session of the City Council (actual start – 5:20pm)*

The City of Decorah Economic Development and Property Committee met on Monday, August 26, 2019 at 5:20pm. Emily Neal and Mayor Borowski called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, and Steve Luse.

Absent: Kirk Johnson

Mayor Lorraine Borowski and Randy Schissel 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 final plan for a memorial in the space in front of the municipal building.*

*Mayor Borowski mentioned that she looked at the overall site layout for the facility and is concerned about growth and possible expansion of city hall and wondered if there might be a better location.*

*Larson noted the team had looked at Mary Christopher Park and if the council and park board were open to allowing use of that space, the veterans group felt it may work.*

*It was noted the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission also had concerns about the front of the municipal building notably that any such memorial might detract from the historical character of the front façade of the facility.*

*The Mayor had indicated she had spoken with Parks and Recreation staff and there was agreement that Mary Christopher Park might work for the Department. Luse expressed interest in why the change of attitude towards Mary Christopher Park when it appeared at the last meeting in May, that space was not an option.*

*There were some comments that there was too much opposition to the city hall space.*

*Mayor Borowski noted the next step would be to meet with the Park Board.*

**Discussion regarding purchasing real estate**

*a) Possible closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 21.5 j – To discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property.*

*The committee did not go in to closed session.*

*Bird shared with the committee the offer from Keith and Greg Bruening to the City to have the City purchase the Alliant Building at 219 West Water Street for \$650,000.*

*After some discussion about possible uses of the building and space, concerns about parking, and taking such a building off the tax rolls if the city purchased it, the committee was in agreement the city is not interested in acquiring the building.*

*The committee directed Bird to issue a letter to the Bruenings thanking them for the offer.*

Discussion regarding an offer to sell public real estate

*Bird reviewed an offer the city had received some time ago regarding selling city land; the offer was to purchase public property.*

*The committee was inclined to continue discussions and agreed that reserving any possible funds or proceeds from the sale would be used towards a new fire station, fire house, or improvements for public safety.*

*No action was directed other than to have Bird continue to explore the process and procedures necessary to sell the public lands.*

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

