

**City of Decorah Council Work session
Monday, October 28, 2019 – 5:00pm**

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

Absent: Johanna Bergan. Randy Schissel arrived at 5:40pm.

Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird, and Economic Development Director Stephanie Fromm.

Agenda

Discussion regarding capital improvement planning

Bird distributed a copy of a proposed capital improvement plan. He recommended the city council review this document and use it in guiding budget discussions. Bird said the staff will use this as a tool to track major infrastructure and capital equipment improvements in the mid to long term. He noted this may be seen as a “take-care-of-what-we-have” approach. Bird said if the council agreed with using the CIP tool in planning and budgeting, he would review needs and projects with departments and bring a finalized version to council for review.

Council agreed to take a closer look when departments had provided their most recent information.

Discussion regarding an amendment to Title 6 of the City Code – prohibition on the keeping of roosters within the City of Decorah

Bird reviewed the draft ordinance with council. He noted there had been approximately five independent complains about roosters in the community in the past several months and that one is currently in litigation with the city to abate a noise and disturbing the peace issue.

The council was in agreement to proceed with finalizing the ordinance and bringing before the full council for discussion and vote.

Discussion regarding use of economic development tools for housing and day care facilities

Stephanie Fromm was in attendance and provided information relative to a day care survey and study she is working on to understand and address the day care issues in the community. She asked if the city would be interested in exploring public / private partnerships and if the city would engage in using TIF and / or abatement tools. The council agreed day care is a concern in the community and is willing to look at strategically planning to address this issue.

Discussion regarding terms of possible sale of public property – real estate

Bird provided an update and noted there are two parties interested in purchasing city owned property. Bird asked the council, if interested selling, the council should develop some requirements regarding the sale, development, and use of the property, such as redevelopment within a certain period of time.

There was some concern about not selling the land until a more formal community discussion has occurred with the Community School District on site selection for a school district bus barn.

Update and review of Police Department hiring process

Assistant Chief of Police, Brent Parker provided an overview of the department's hourly shift schedule. He explained the current 12-hour shift pattern seemed to work best for the department. He concluded the schedule does not dictate staffing needs, calls for service, time-off requests and safety largely drive how the best schedule is formulated.

He also discussed the belief that 12-hour shifts might be mentally taxing and draining on an officer's performance. He noted every shift schedule will have its own issues and benefits.

There was general discussion about this issue with no conclusions.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris A. [unclear]". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located below the "Respectfully submitted," text.