

April 6, 2020

The regular meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Borowski at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting was held electronically as meeting in person was impossible or impractical due to COVID19 regulations.

The Pledge of Allegiance was waived due to meeting being held electronically

Members present: Emily Neal, Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Johanna Bergan, Randy Schissel

Motion by Schissel, second by Neal, to suspend City Council Rules of Procedure V(B) and permitting participation by any or all Council members by electronic means and to authorize a quorum by Council members participating electronically until such time the Governor suspends the State Proclamation prohibiting events with 10 or more participants.

Public Comment period was waived.

Councilperson Schissel requested item F. Consider approval of the 2020 Farmer's Market Agreement to be removed from the consent agenda.

Motion by Luse to approve the remaining items of the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the March 16, 2020 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Expanded Outdoor Service Area for Toppling Goliath 5/15/20.
- d. Renewal Class C Liquor License for Good Times including Sunday Sales, Outdoor Service Area and Catering privileges
- e. Transfer of Snap Marketing liquor license to 200 Railroad Ave.
- f. Consider approval of the 2020 Farmer's Market Agreement - **Removed**
- g. Resolution 3062 setting a date for a public hearing on lease of farm land, airport
- h. Resolution 3064, acknowledging receipt of an application for voluntary annexation from Thomas J. and Barbara Massman and authorizing to proceed with voluntary annexation in the vicinity of Laurel Drive
- i. CO #1 2019 Street Improvement Project - \$12,356.78
- j. CO #2 2019 Street Improvement Project - \$16,707.25

Item F. Consider approval of the 2020 Farmer's Market Agreement was opened for discussion.

Motion by Schissel, second by Bergan to approve the 2020 Farmer's Market Agreement with the understanding the market doesn't open until such time as the Governor lifts the Department of Health recommendation to prohibit outdoor gathering of 10 or more people. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Schissel, Bergan, Carlson, Hadley, Johnson. Voting nay: Luse, Neal. Motion carried.

Motion by Hadley, second by Johnson to approve the amendment/update to the City COVID19 response policy. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on the plans, specifications, form of contract, estimated total cost and accepting bids for the 2020 Quarry Street Storm Sewer Improvement Project the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Luse, second by Hadley, to approve Resolution 3061 approving the plans, specifications, form of contract and accepting the Skyline Construction bid of \$437,717.50. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1244 establishing the Decorah Sustainability Commission was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Luse, second by Bergan, to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Hadley, Neal, Carlson, Johnson, Bergan. Voting nay: Schissel. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Neal, to waive the third and final reading and place the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Neal, Bergan, Johnson, Carlson, Hadley. Voting nay: Schissel. Motion carried

Ordinance 1242 increasing water rates by 2% was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Bergan, second by Carlson, 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 place the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1243 increasing sewer rates by 2% was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Luse, second by Neal, 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 place the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution 3063 supporting National Legislation to enact a carbon fee and dividend program to reduce polluting and climate-changing carbon emissions and declaring an emergency was opened for discussion.

Councilperson Schissel stated his belief this is just a wealth distribution plan. It will adversely affect the low to moderate income demographic in the short term.


Lyle Otte stated it will help those in that income bracket more than the wealthy.

Councilperson Luse stated he will not vote for this unless language is added to eliminate subsidies to the fossil fuel industry.

Councilpersons Neal, Hadley and Johnson all said this is different and the two shouldn't be linked together.

Motion by Johnson, second by Neal to approve Resolution 3063 supporting National Legislation to enact a carbon fee and dividend program to reduce polluting and climate-changing carbon emissions; and declaring an emergency. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Johnson, Neal, Hadley, Carlson, Bergan. Voting nay: Luse, Schissel. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.


Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.