

## **City of Decorah Utility Committee Meeting**

**Monday, April 6, 2020** – Immediately following the regular city council meeting. The meeting started approximately 6:44pm.

*Electronic meeting pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8 – In circumstances where such a meeting is impossible or impractical due to concerns about COVID-19 and social distancing for the safety of Council members and the public.*

*In support of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' proclamation declaring a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency in Iowa, the current COVID-19 situation makes it "impossible and impractical" to meet in one location. Due to this the Decorah City Hall was closed to the public for the April 6, 2020 Council Utility Committee meeting. However, the meeting was made available telephonically.*

The City of Decorah Utility Committee met on Monday, April 6, 2020 at approximately 6:44pm, immediately following the regular city council meeting.

Chairman Andy Carlson called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Steve Luse, Randy Schissel, and Johanna Bergan. Mayor Lorraine Borowski, Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson, and Emily Neal were also in attendance. Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird and several Dept Heads.

### Agenda

Discussion regarding electric utility franchise agreement

*Carlson opened the meeting and stated the current agreement has Alliant's language for the first window at five years. Neal asked about the language regarding the first window being dependent on the Iowa Utility Board's ruling or decision to grant a service territory to Decorah. Bird noted he had presented that language to Alliant and they stated they were not interested in that language.*

*Luse stated he was not interested in moving the agreement forward without the study Alliant promised to deliver after the May public input meetings they held. He noted he wanted to see the full study from Alliant.*

*Bergan stated the first window, set at five years is not in the community's best interest and suggests some type of communication or press release be issued after discussions with Alliant.*

*There was discussion about forming a negotiating team to continue discussions with Alliant. Carlson proposed the utility committee be that team.*

*Johnson suggested Hadley, Carlson, and Neal should form the negotiating team.*

*Hadley asked where the final feasibility study / report was. Neal also asked if Alliant's "Community Engagement Plan" had ever been released or received.*

*Bergan asked if Carlson would set a team to negotiate with Alliant. There was continued discussion about the merits of a "team" or if the committee or council should engage in negotiations.*

*Carlson directed Bird to secure dates for possible meetings.*

*There was also general discussion about legally buying back infrastructure improvements and how the council could exercise its rights to file a complaint with the IUB.*

Residential water only and sewer only customer accounts

*Bird reviewed this information from the February 10, 2020 utility committee meeting and said more complete information is in the council packet. He noted the basic intent is to amend policy so that utility customers actually pay for the services they receive, no more or no less than the services connected to.*

*He stated some customers, through previous deals, conditions, or oversight, some are paying for services they don't receive from the city. Bird noted city staff is asking for the policy to be more straightforward.*

*There was general agreement from the committee to bring the policy to the full council for consideration.*

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad A. Bird", is written over the typed name.