

August 3, 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 in the Council Chambers and electronically for those that meeting in person was impossible or impractical due to COVID19 regulations.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Bridget Casper, 201 Meadow View Dr., conveyed concerns regarding speed control on Highland Dr. As vehicles are traveling into town. As vehicles approach city limits, on Highland, the speeds are extremely fast. They have seen a significant increase in traffic since the Locust Road Project began. Also, dust control is a serious situation on Quarry Hill Road. She reported the supervisors agreed to participate with the Locust Road contractor to provide dust control. The speed sign has been placed on Highland where it intersects with the county and speed bumps will be placed ASAP.

Motion by Luse, second by Hadley to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the July 20, 2020 and July 23, 2020 council meetings
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Class C Liquor License for Stone Hearth including Sunday Sales

Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Carlson, Bergan, Neal, Hadley, Johnson, Schissel. Motion carried.

This being the time and place for a public hearing on the plans/specs, form of contract and taking of bids for the 2020 Library Improvement Project Phase II the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Bergan, second by Luse, to adopt Resolution 3114 approving the plans/specs, form of contract and awarding the bids as follows:

- Painting – Michael Painting - \$43,766
- Skylight – SGH Redglaze Holdings - \$52,428
- Flooring – Commercial Flooring - \$98,551

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the time and place for public hearing on the plans/specs, form of contract and taking of bids for the 2020 Court St and Broadway St. Improvement Project the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Luse, second by Neal to adopt Resolution 3115 approving the plans/specs, form contract and awarding the project including Division 1 with Alternates 1 – 3 and excluding Division II to Skyline Construction - Total award \$237,964.31. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on the 2020 Dry Run Plaza Park Project the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

City Manager Bird explained the bids were much higher than anticipated. As this is a project wholly funded by donations the project group requested the plans/specs and bids be rejected. Motion by Luse, second by Carlson, to reject the all bids. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on proposals to dispose of City owned real property in the vicinity of the northwest corner of US Hwy 52 and State Hwy 9, the requirements for the sale and development of said City owned land and considering submitted proposals.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Hadley, second by Luse, to approve Resolution 3117 for preliminary approval of proposal from Kelly Bachelder, Bachelder, Inc. for purchase of city owned real estate and directing staff to negotiate a development and purchase agreement for the sale and development thereof, to include sustainability efforts.

Councilperson Luse feels this action will allow us to work towards an acceptable development agreement.

Kelly Bachelder stated it was difficult to be specific about development potential. There are a lot of opportunities but because of COVID he is not sure what the environment will be in the next 18 months.

Discussion was held on potential environmental cleanup. Won't know the extent until the DNR has the opportunity to inspect the area. They are more concerned with the spray field than the property being proposed for sale.

Councilperson Carlson appreciates the offer but thinks we are getting ahead of ourselves. Would like to determine what the proceeds will be used for before selling.

Councilperson Neal expressed concerns about the Business Park not being full, the value of real property and lack of info in the RFP process. She is inclined to keep it at this time.

Councilperson Bergan believes the proceeds can be used to meet infrastructure needs but is also concerned with the lack of info in the RFP process.

Councilperson Johnson is not concerned about having these funds set aside for future use and not to have a specific project in mind. Believes it would be wise to proceed. It also becomes taxable property.

Councilperson Schissel agreed.

The Mayor called for the vote. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Hadley, Luse, Schissel, Johnson. Voting nay: Bergan, Neal, Carlson. Motion carried.

Motion by Neal, second by Bergan, to approve a special event application for Decorah Genealogy Assn., Thursday, August 13, 2020; 10:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1255 approving a proposed Alliant Energy Franchise Agreement was introduced and read for the third time. Motion by Schissel to approve the third reading and adopt. Motion died for lack of second.

Councilpersons Neal, Luse and Bergan expressed a desire to table to wait for IUB response to the informal complaint filed by the City.

Motion by Luse, second by Hadley to table action until September 8, 2020. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Hadley, Neal, Bergan, Johnson, Carlson. Voting nay: Schissel. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Neal, to approve the Mayor appointment of Ben Krouse-Gagne to the Human Rights Commission. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried

Motion by Schissel, second by Carlson to approve the Mayor appointment of Siri Stevens to the Human Rights Commission. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.