

**City of Decorah Utility Committee Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2020 – 5:00pm**

The City of Decorah Utility Committee met on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 5:00pm.

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. The Telecommunications Utility Board was also in attendance. Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird and several Dept Heads.

Agenda

Discussion regarding Alliant rate case and electric utility franchise agreement

There was general conversation regarding the ongoing negotiations for a franchise agreement. The committee discussed several points they believed should be in the agreement.

Bergan noted she believed the agreement should have one-year windows to open negotiations.

Neal wondered if language could be drafted that stated the agreement would be opened upon a successful referendum or at such time the Iowa Utilities Board would award a service territory.

Luse stated he was in agreement with the language as provided to the committee.

Mayor Borowski was comfortable with the three-, seven-, or twelve-year language in the agreement. She also was open to exploring the language Neal suggested.

Schissel noted the City of Fairfield has five-year language and he is comfortable with that language.

Neal initiated a discussion on the franchise fee language. Most council was supportive of the implementation of the fee. Generally, the committee supported a 2% electric utility franchise fee.

There was also general discussion regarding a future feasibility study and a municipal utility task force. Conversation around the feasibility study included whether a full study or a comparative study should be commissioned.

Discussion regarding Iowa Senate Study Bill 3009

Bird shared information on this SSB as it related to proposed regulations on home rule and municipal fiber and telecommunication utilities and their ability to function in the municipal utility industry.

Bird provided the summary of the bill and outlined it as a bill relating to broadband service and placing restrictions on operating a municipal utility.

After some discussion with the Telco Board, it was agreed a joint letter stating opposition to the bill should be sent.

Residential water only and sewer only customer accounts

Bird shared he received a letter from a resident in the residential area along Hwy 9, near Sunflower Child Care. The concern was over the requirement the pay sewer services when no such services are received.

Bird provided information relative to other similar situations in the community.

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After some discussion, Bergan asked for more complete information as to other areas in the community. The committee agreed to bring the issue back for more conversation.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 5:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

