

**City of Decorah Council Work session
Monday, February 24, 2020 – 5:00pm**

The City Council met in a work session on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5:00pm. Mayor Lorraine Borowski called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Randy Schissel, Emily Neal, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Ross Hadley, Johanna Bergan, and Kirk Johnson.

Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird, Library Director Kristin Torresdal, and Assistant Police Chief Brent Parker.

Agenda

Discussion regarding use and sale of property

Bird shared the City has received an interest in purchasing the city property, West of Hwy 52. Bird discussed the City could consider the sale of the land with contingencies and with a development agreement. There was some interest from council members if the proceeds from the sale could be restricted to a specific project and not just placed in the city's general fund. The idea of a fire station came up.

There was also interest in changing the way storm water is handled on that property in the future, with a desire to see storm water shed to the North and Northwest rather than directed in or through the commercial areas.

Carlson noted he wanted to see a map of all city land to gain a better understanding of the City's assets. The council directed the City Manager to engage the land owner in question and see if a new purchase offer might be negotiated.

Discussion regarding an amendment to Chapter 5.28 – rental housing / short-term rentals

Bird reviewed the Planning & Zoning Commission's recommendation to begin a short-term rental inspection program by amending current city code section 5.28.

Luse noted he believed a time parameter should be inserted and defined in section 20 e. He believed "reasonable" time was not properly defined nor provided guidance for staff.

There was also general discussion regarding affordable housing and whether this policy addresses the affordable housing issues or not.

The council was open to a public hearing and another mailing to the owners of such short-term units in the City.

Discussion Sustainability Commission

Neal noted she was interested in the commission having seven members. Bird shared a draft of an ordinance he gleaned from other City commissions.

There was discussion about having certain sector appointments to the commission; for example, energy, education, water, etc. Schissel suggested a five-member commission with sector subcommittees that could tackle subject matter in various areas. Carlson believed sector appointments would limit the commission too much. He believed the Mayor and Council could simply make the appointments from areas they desired to have represented on the commission.

There was also a desire to update the volunteer application for boards and commissions at the same time. Neal also asked that the Sustainability Plan's purpose be woven into the commission's purpose statement.

Final consensus was for a six-year term for seven members on the board.

Discussion regarding Iowa Legislature SSB 3034 and HSB 591

There was general discussion and overview of several legislative bills and files in the Iowa Legislature.

The council was interested in supporting SSB 3034 and HSB 591 and interested in opposing the bill providing for changes to the State's Chapter 411 plan.

Discussion regarding staff positions in the Police Department

Assistant Chief Brent Parker was present and reviewed the staff positions in the PD.

Parker reviewed the process and noted the promotion does come with a small salary increase. Schissel noted he wanted to see more rotations amongst the shift crews so there was better overlap.

Parker noted the Dept is working to develop better scheduling so there is more overlap and cross-shift work. Bird asked for a graphic depiction of the schedule. Bird suggested the Department bring back a review of the schedule changes and final plans for sergeant promotion.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad A. Bird". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.