

July 20, 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.

Lissa Blake spoke about concerns with speeding traffic on Highland Drive – it being a detour road for the Locust Road Project. She requested something be done to lower the speed limit.

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

Mayor Borowski requested Item D on the consent agenda be removed for discussion.

- a. Minutes of the July 6, 2020 council meeting
 - b. Claims
 - c. Outdoor service area for LaRana
 - d. Special event application for Pulpit Rock Brewery, Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, August 22, 2020; 10:00am to 11:30pm – ~~Removed from consent agenda~~
 - e. Change Order #1 Upper Ridge Road Imp - \$15,458.33
 - f. Renewal Class E Liquor License for Backwater Spirits including Class B Wine, Class C Beer and Sunday Sales privileges.
 - g. Renewal Class C Liquor License for Corner Bar including Sunday Sales
 - h. Consider C-3 Commercial Design review re: 418 West Water Street, *Northeast Montessori School – install a prefabricated storage shed*
 - i. Consider C-3 Commercial Design review re: 300 West Water Street, *Zook / Blue Heron Building, new front windows*
 - j. Consider C-3 Commercial Design review re: 307 West Water Street, *Your Place, new and replacement signs*
- Motion by Luse, second by Carlson to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Carlson, Bergan, Neal, Hadley, Johnson. Voting nay: Schissel. Motion carried.

Item D. Special Event Application for Pulpit Rock Brewery Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, August 22, 2020 was opened for discussion.

City Manager Bird explained part of the application requests the closure of 5th Ave and use of Wayside Park. He advised the Park and Recreation Board had refused to act on the request. Their concerns are primarily COVID related and they are not in favor of this event.

Pete Espinosa, Pulpit Rock owner, explained they are doing everything they can to make the event safe for attendees. He will have staff and volunteers available to monitor social distancing. He also stated this event is being used to promote a fundraising event for Art Haus.

Some council members felt this was reasonable and the safe guards outlined by Mr. Espinosa are adequate. Others feel approval of this is hypocritical of the council given the current COVID situation and council concerns with mask wearing and social distancing. Others expressed a desire to see a more detailed plan for social distancing and how it will be accomplished.

Mr. Espinosa offered to submit a more detailed plan for social distancing.

After lengthy discussion it was moved by Luse, seconded by Carlson, to deny the application. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Carlson, Schissel. Voting nay: Neal, Hadley, Bergan, Johnson. Motion failed.

Motion by Bergan, second by Johnson to table the application until a more detailed plan for social distancing is received. Voting aye: Bergan, Neal, Carlson, Hadley, Johnson. Voting nay: Luse, Schissel. Motion carried.

This being the time and place for a public hearing on a rezoning request for 1513 Laurel Drive parcel from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Single Family Residential District the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Ordinance 1256 approving the request for rezoning of 1513 Laurel Drive parcel from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Residential District was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Schissel, second by Luse, to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Carlson, to waive the second and third readings and place the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Carlson, to approve a R-3 Residential Multi-Family site plan for Quandahl Construction; 105 St. Lawrence Street as shown in the July 13 site plan.

Attorney Karl Knudsen, representing adjoining property owners, voiced concerns regarding the parking proposal for this development. He feels it conflicts with the requirements of City Code. City Manager Bird explained it comes down to interpretation of the code. We have consistently applied the interpretation regarding parking spaces.

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

Resolution 3112 approving a final plat for Massman 2nd Addition was opened for discussion.

Councilperson Hadley expressed concern the final plat does not show sidewalks. City Manager Bird explained sidewalks are shown in the approved preliminary plan and that the final plat typically does not show that type of detail. Approval of the final plat allows the lots to be sold for development.

Councilperson Hadley believes it needs to be stated in writing sidewalks are required.

Developer Barbara Massman explained the requirement for sidewalks is in the subdivision covenants. Every buyer is aware of the sidewalk requirement.

Motion by Schissel, second by Luse to adopt Resolution 3112 approving the final plat for the Massman Second Addition but not accepting streets at this time. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1255 approving the Alliant Energy Franchise Agreement was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Johnson, second by Hadley, to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Johnson, Hadley, Schissel, Bergan, Neal, Carlson. Voting nay: Luse. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Luse, to proceed with the Joint Utility Trench for the Locust Road Improvement Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Luse, to approve Resolution 3113 supporting Winneshiek County Public Health initiatives on face coverings and public health measures and following any recommendations made by the Winneshiek County Board of Health. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Bergan, to approve the Mayor appointment of Emily Neal as Council Liaison to the Sustainability Commission. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Carlson to approve the Mayor appointment of Marla Klocke to the Planning and Zoning Board. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Carlson to approve the Mayor appointment of Paul Scott to the Communications Utility Board. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.