

## **City of Decorah Economic Development and Property Committee Meeting**

**Monday, June 17, 2019 – 6:30pm.**

*Immediately following the regular session of the City Council (actual start – 6:46pm)*

The City of Decorah Economic Development and Property Committee met on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 6:46pm. Chairman Dan Bellrichard called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson, and Steve Luse. Mayor Lorraine Borowski was also in attendance. Others in attendance: Staff, City Clerk Wanda Hemesath, City Attorney John Anderson, and City Manager Chad Bird.

### Agenda

#### Discussion regarding a proposed veterans' memorial park

*Decorah area veterans led by Glen Larson presented a plan they are working on to design a veteran's memorial park in Decorah. Mr. Larson was back after having met with this committee on May 20 with additional information. Mr. Larson noted the group had toured the East Water Street Park area and believes it is too small and not appropriate for their plans.*

*Hadley concurred, the park area seemed rather small and would be a tight fit for the project. He asked about the East side of the municipal building.*

*Bellrichard discussed the type of monuments with the group and noted he was alright with areas in front of the municipal building or to the side. Larson noted monument stones might be in the 6' x 5' range and some may be oval in design. The group is still working on final concepts.*

*Bird noted he is interested in landscaping the triangle in front of the municipal building. He noted the traffic on the cross street is dangerous and confusing for motorists. He recommended doing away with the street and landscaping the entire area.*

*Others thought the idea was fine and the committee noted they would like to see final designs before approval.*

#### Discussion regarding an offer to purchase public real estate

*Bird shared an offer to purchase real estate he had received and engaged the committee in discussion about the general concept of selling the land. Bird reviewed some of the options available to the council and also noted the council had the option of discussing details in closed session.*

*The committee was open to further discussions and directed Bird to continue to prepare the information.*

#### Discussion and review of economic development application for commercial tax abatement

*Bird reviewed an application for commercial tax abatement he has received for a proposed new building in the Decorah Business Park. He noted, while the application was not specific as to the amount of the abatement, Bird recalled similar applications awarded in the park for Toppling Goliath and Norwegian Mutual Insurance – generally three years abatement at 75%, 60%, and 45%.*

*The committee was not really favorable to offering abatements in the business park but also acknowledged a local business wanting to grow.*

*The committee directed Bird to bring the application to the council.*

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There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris A. [unclear]", is written below the text "Respectfully submitted,".