

**City of Decorah Council Work Session
Monday, June 29, 2020 – 5:00pm**

Electronic meeting pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8 – In circumstances where such a meeting is impossible or impractical due to concerns about COVID-19 and social distancing for the safety of Council members and the public.

In support of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' proclamation declaring a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency in Iowa, the current COVID-19 situation makes it "impossible and impractical" to meet in one location. Due to this the Decorah City Hall was open to the public for the July 6, 2020 City Council meeting. However, seating was limited to ensure proper social distancing. Seating was available on a first-come, first served basis. However, the meeting was made available telephonically.

The City of Decorah Council Work Session was held on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 5:00pm.

The City Council met in a work session on Monday, June 29, 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 Clerk / Treasurer Wanda Hemesath and City Manager Chad Bird.

Agenda

Discussion regarding a memorandum of understanding; Upper Iowa Speedway
Bird provided an overview of the memorandum of understanding and explained he had met with Speedway promoter about terms agreeable to each party. A draft MOU was presented to the council for discussion.

Neal asked if any of the dates were other than Saturdays. Wayne Smith responded they were not. He clarified as noted it might depend on what the Fair does, there could be a race the week of the Fair, but Smith noted he was not confident that would happen.

Schissel asked Smith if a 10:00pm finish time was feasible. Smith noted it usually a good end time, but he wanted the 11:00pm time for rain delays and other unforeseen circumstances.

Hadley asked about race start times. Smith noted hot laps begin at 6:00pm and racing begins at 6:30pm. Hadley noted he wanted to see races end at 10:00pm as a hard stop. He mentioned being sensitive to family and kids being out so late.

The council reached consensus on the memorandum of understanding and agreed to the terms as discussed and outlined.

Discussion regarding possible land sale revenue uses and restrictions

Bird provided an update on the possible land sale and noted the Council has set a date for a public hearing to receive and review bids for the sale and development of the land.

Bird reminded the council the purpose of this work session is to discuss options for the use or restrictions on the potential sale proceeds.

Dean Frana, president of the Fox and Coon Club presented information on the membership and programing at the club. He noted the club has about 60 – 70 members.

Johnson asked about youth programming. Frana said the youth program is strong.

Frana also noted the club has been on the same site since 1980.

Hadley discussed land use needs from a zoning perspective and stated he believed the City should be seeking the highest and best use for the land.

Hadley also noted the recently completed capital improvement plan and recapped some of the city's needs, including a fire station.

Bergan noted she would like to see a city-wide facility master plan to facilitate a tangible conversation.

Hemesath noted the funds could easily be put aside for future use.

There was no further discussion from the council.

Discussion regarding 2020 Commerce Drive bids and project options

Bird updated the council on the project bids received on the previous Friday, June 26. He noted there was one bid received from Wicks Construction. The amount was \$147,238.10. The Engineer's Opinion of Cost on the project was \$146,353.50.

Bird shared he had reached out to Kwik Star to inquire about their participation, through special assessments, in the project. Bird stated the reason he had inquired about this is due to the engineer's opinion the street material should be upgraded to concrete. Bird noted Kwik Star was in favor of a petition and waiver to contribute to the cost of the improvements.

The council expressed interest in proceeding with the partnership with Kwik Star.

Discussion regarding downtown street closures for dining and entertainment

Bird engaged the council in conversation about closing the streets downtown for various events and activities.

There was general conversation about restaurants using sidewalks or parking areas in front of their businesses. Bergan and Johnson shared interest in allowing closings and use upon application and request.

Johnson noted he was alright with the use of parking spaces.

Generally, the council was supportive of receiving and reviewing applications to close streets.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Council Work Session Meetings

Special work sessions are scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month at a time agreeable by council or set by the Mayor. The purpose of the work session is to review upcoming action items, to plan and conduct research, or review items for possible action. A special work session may be called by the Mayor or upon petition of three members of the council and shall require notice in compliance with Iowa law; a verbal / written notification shall be given by the Mayor to each Council member. Only matters placed on the agenda for the work session meeting shall be discussed.