

**City of Decorah Utility Committee Meeting**

**Monday, March 2, 2020** – *Immediately following the regular city council meeting.*

The City of Decorah Utility Committee met on Monday, March 2, 2020 at approximately 6:48pm, immediately following the regular city council meeting.

Chairman Andy Carlson called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Steve Luse, and Johanna Bergan. Absent: Randy Schissel. Mayor Lorraine Borowski, Ross Hadley, and Emily Neal were also in attendance. Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird and several Dept Heads.

Agenda

Discussion regarding formation of a municipal electric utility feasibility study task force

*Carlson opened the meeting noting the council should consider a conversation on the topic of a study group or task force, he asked Neal to elaborate.*

*Neal noted such a task force, to study the implications, costs, and process of a municipal electric utility is one of the tenants in the recently adopted sustainability plan.*

*Bird and Neal pointed out that the task force could not do campaign work if the issue would come to a municipal referendum.*

*Neal explained the process such a task force might pursue; looking into the feasibility process, whether they would recommend to the council a new feasibility study, a combined study, or a comparative review of the existing studies.*

*Neal and others stated the studies of the issues by the task force should be conducted under the auspicious of the City rather than an outside group.*

*Neal also stated she believed the task force should be able to key in on the state's legislative process as it might apply to their work.*

*There was general discussion regarding the make up of a task force. Some on the committee believed it should be as large as ten members and others thought about 5 – 7 were appropriate numbers. It was discussed that perhaps three council members would be appointed to the task force. Bird cautioned about open records and open meeting and noted this task force would be subject to such sunshine laws.*

*The meeting concluded with a directive that names for possible membership being sent to Mayor Borowski, Bird, or Neal. It was discussed the Mayor would consider appointment to the task force.*

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

