

March 24, 2020

The special meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Borowski at 4:30 p.m.

This special meeting held to discuss information regarding the COVID19 virus was posted as an electronic meeting with council, staff and public being able to call in to participate in the meeting. The meeting was held electronically as meeting in person was impossible or impractical due to COVID19 regulations. Due to technical difficulties with the phone system the meeting did not start until 4:45 pm and was held using Zoom.

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

Sean Snyder, Emergency Management Director and Krista VandeBrink, WCPH Director, reviewed their efforts and that of the state/federal organizations of which they are apart.

VandeBrink advised of the status of the 1 positive case in Winneshiek Co. She explained the process IDPH uses in notifying the local public health agencies of new cases.

Councilmembers voiced concerns regarding the lack of PPE and testing kits. Snyder explained he has put in a request for needed items but does not know when or how much of the order will be filled. The state will distribute as able.

Concerns were also discussed about the potential need to shelter in place and the possibility of issuing a Decorah Emergency Declaration and the lack of information being shared.

Snyder explained he had already issued a Countywide Declaration and Governor Reynolds a statewide one. He didn't feel there was any additional benefit to issuing our own.

VandeBrink stressed they are both following all IDPH and EMA guidelines. These are the organizations charged with management of this event.

Press releases stressing the importance of social distancing, proper handwashing, use of hand sanitizing and disinfection products both at work and home, sheltering in place whenever possible and not congregating in groups have been released to news organizations and are on city/public health websites along with various social media sites.

City staff advised all press releases from IDPH, WCPH, WMC are distributed through the City website/social media sites, to staff and City Managers email group. Staff is making every effort to get information to the public.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.