

May 11, 2020

The special meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Borowski at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was held electronically as meeting in person was impossible or impractical due to COVID19 regulations.

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

Motion by Schissel, second by Johnson to approve Resolution 3072 setting June 1, 2020, 5:45 p.m. as the date and time for a public hearing on a utility franchise fee revenue purpose statement.

Councilperson Bergan questioned the need to set a percentage at the meeting. Bird responded no, explaining this just sets the parameters of what funding may be used for.

Councilperson Bergan, Neal and Luse believe this is confusing for the public.

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

Motion by Schissel, second by Johnson, to approve Resolution 3073 setting June 1, 2020, 5:45 p.m. as the date and time for a public hearing on a utility franchise agreement with Alliant Energy.

City Manager Bird explained the need for a public hearing in a franchise agreement process.

Councilperson Bergan voiced concerns about the timeline and with the opportunity and ability to negotiate with Alliant. She also feels the public should be able to weigh in on the franchise fee amount.

Councilperson Neil expressed desire to wait until the second meeting in June for the public hearing.

Councilperson Johnson feels we should move forward now and get it done.

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

Discussion was held on filing an informal or formal complaint with the Iowa Utility Board or, alternatively, filing a comment with the Office of Consumer Advocate that Alliant discriminated against Decorah in regards to franchise agreement negotiations.

Councilperson Luse feels the city should start the informal complaint process and submit written comments and response on the open rate case. They are not mutually exclusive.

Councilpersons Hadley and Neal agreed with Luse.

Councilperson Johnson feels this will just cost more money. Councilperson Hadley stated staff could do this with John Anderson. Bird reminded everyone that John Anderson doesn't work for free.

Councilperson Neal believes Sheila Tipton should be involved.

Motion by Luse, second by Bergan to start the process to prepare an informal complaint to IUB and use the same to file a comment on the current rate case with the IUB. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Bergan, Neal, Carlson, Hadley. Voting nay: Johnson, Schissel. Motion carried.

It was subsequently requested Council be able to approve the complaint prior to submission.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.