

CITY OF DECORAH  
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
Minutes of November 4, 2020

This meeting was an 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 commission 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. The Decorah City Hall was open. However, seating was limited to ensure proper social distancing. Seating was available on a first-come, first served basis for the November 4, 2020 Board of Adjustment meeting. However, the meeting was available telephonically. The public was able to hear and participate in the Board meeting.

Due to a malfunction of the Zoom platform, the electronic portion of the meeting did not allow online participation in the meeting. To this writer's awareness, there were no members of the public impacted by this malfunction.

Sue Sander called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and the following answered roll:  
Carol Hagen, Janelle Pavlovec, Kraig Tweed, and John Jenkins.

Approval of minutes of the October 7, 2020 regular meeting.

**Tweed moved and Jenkins seconded a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2020.**

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Tweed, Jenkins, Pavlovec, Hagen, and Sander.**

**Motion was approved.**

Mike Hovden for 700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue requesting permission to construct a house addition on the back of the residence contrary to the R-2 zoning district regulations (17.72.040)

Mr. Hovden presented his application and noted he is proposing to install a screened in porch addition to his residence. He noted the lot is very small but his addition would not exceed past the East side of the current structure, which itself received a variance for a side-yard.

Hovden noted this proposed addition would aid in side-yard privacy for the neighbors to the East. He also noted he hadn't met with disapproval from any of the neighbors.

There were no additional public comments.

The Board had no further questions or comments.

**Tweed moved and Hagen seconded a motion to approve a variance to allow the addition of a rear porch room, encroaching in to the side-yard setback to create a 7-foot setback.**

**Roll call vote: Unanimously approved.**

Kelsey Vanney for 207 East Main Street requesting permission to construct a front porch and replace a rear screened in porch with four-season sun room contrary to the R-3 zoning district regulations (17.76.040)

Mrs. Vanney presented her application and noted she intends to add a porch to the front of her home and enclose and extend the rear porch into a four-season room. She added that neither proposed enclosure or construction would extend past the existing sides of the residence but the residence is non-conforming and doesn't meet current side-yard setback requirements.

She is proposing a 9-foot West side-yard setback and an 8'foot East side-yard setback.

There were no additional public comments.

Sander asked if the front porch plans called for covering the existing concrete steps and Vanney noted her contractor will determine the best approach for removing or covering the existing steps.

The Board had no further questions or comments.

**Pavlovec moved and Jenkins seconded a motion to approve a variance to allow the addition to a front porch and enclosure of the rear porch and to allow side-yard setbacks of 8-feet on each side.**

**Roll call vote: Unanimously approved.**

Other Business:

Sander announced Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 5:15pm as the next meeting and confirmed member in-person attendance.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

