

City of Decorah Utility Committee Meeting Monday, December 21, 2020

Immediately following regular city council meeting – the meeting started approximately 6:30pm.

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's committee 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 will remain closed to the public for the December 21, 2020 City Council utility committee meeting. However, the meeting will be made available telephonically. The public will be able to hear and participate in the Council meeting by calling the number provided.

The City of Decorah Utility Committee met on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 3:00pm.

Chairman Andy Carlson called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Steve Luse, Randy Schissel, and Steve Zittergruen. Mayor Lorraine Borowski was also in attendance. Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird and several Dept Heads.

Agenda

Discussion on proposed amendments to the city's storm water utility ordinance

Bird presented information relative to a new ordinance he and City Engineer Bril are working on drafting. Bird noted the major elements would include provisions for storm water control and maintenance on commercial properties and would be reviewed during the site plan approval process.

He also noted staff is working on revisions to "sewer connections" code in relation to sump pumps and residential ground water control and maintenance. Bird noted the storm water code is new and the sewer connection code is an amendment / revision.

There was general discussion and Bird apologized for not having a completed document in the committee's packet for review. He noted staff would complete a refined version and bring back for discussion.

Discussion of storm water user fee

Bird discussed the city's storm water utility fee and noted it has been four years since implemented (September 2016) and he recommends the council consider a fee increase due to the nature of projects proposed.

There was discussion about other fee structures such as equivalent service units and possible need for a consultant to assist with that process. Bril mentioned possible work with students in GIS programs.

At the end of the conversation, some committee members expressed concern with raising fees during a pandemic. They did agree to review commercial and industrial fees through the next few months.

Update of storm water project:

1. 710 Maiden Lane

Bird reviewed a multi-family commercial / residential property that had sustained some water damage a couple of years ago and noted the owners are seeking reimbursement / compensation from the city for some of the damage as they alleged the City is responsible for some of the damage.

Bird noted he had been negotiating with the owners and offered \$7,500 as reimbursement for tying the storm drains into the city storm system.

The committee was agreeable to Bird's offer to the owners.

The committee urged Bird to check with council / committee members when making offers to participate in such projects in the future.

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There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Water, Sewer, Public Lights and Utilities - *Carlson, Luse, Zittergruen, Schissel
Reviews plans and projects related to the sanitary sewer system, public water system, storm water utility, street and parking lighting, solid waste collection, and recycling. Reviews budgets, rates, and growth demands. Plans future growth and development of the systems and determines policy.