

**City of Decorah Economic Development and Property Committee Meeting - minutes  
Monday, December 7, 2020 – Immediately following the regular city council meeting. The  
meeting convened approximately 7:15pm.**

*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 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 was open to the public for the December 7, 2020 City Council Economic Development & Property Committee meeting. However, seating was limited to ensure proper social distancing. Seating was available on a first-come, first served basis. However, the meeting was made available telephonically.*

Chairman Steve Luse called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson, and Emily Neal.

Mayor Lorraine Borowski, and Steve Zittergruen were also in attendance. Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird, City Engineer Jeremy Bril, and several Dept Heads.

## **Agenda**

Chair **Luse**, Hadley, Johnson, Neal

Discussion regarding real estate purchase agreement; 701 Maple Avenue

*Bird provided an overview of the project and stated the City had reached a tentative agreement with the property owner for the City's purchase of the property. Bird stated he recommends the City then acquire the property and demolish the site to make it ready for redevelopment. He proposed the City seek development proposals to building low income or affordable housing on the site and to work with a builder for a plan the council finds acceptable. Bird also noted he was working with Winneshiek County Development & Tourism on a demolition grant to help prepare the site.*

*The committee thought the proposal had merit and were in agreement to proceed and bring final action to the full city council.*

Discussion regarding real estate purchase agreement; Fox and Coon Club property

*Bird presented the draft development agreement and reminded the council of the basic elements of the agreement and proposal for the land sale. He asked if the committee wanted to be more specific about the type of development, narrowed from the proposed C-1 Highway Commercial Zoning, the committee believed this designation was fine.*

*Bird also noted the property would need to be annexed and rezoned upon sale / transfer.*

*The committee agreed with these terms and asked for the final documents to be brought before the full council.*

Discussion regarding Downtown Assessment final report

*Luse asked the committee for some input into a statement to coincide with the final assessment report.*

*There was general conversation and Neal noted she would draft a few key points and city position and send to Bird for review and dissemination to the committee.*

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad A. King".

**Economic Development & Property**

*Initiatives that build the economic capacity of the local area. Shall review city economic development efforts and recommend actions regarding economic development. Physical planning, technological innovations, marketing, annexation, incremental finances and tax abatements to increase the invested assets per capita. Sustainable initiatives that promote the standard of living, life expectancy and economic health. Acquisitions, disposal, and maintenance of real property. May also review capital building projects and improvement programs.*