

January 4, 2021

The regular meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Borowski at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers and electronically for those that meeting in person was impossible or impractical due to COVID19 regulations.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Jim Morrow, 1406 Jordan Dr., thanked the council for their work on Locust Road. Feels the project turned out fantastic. Really appreciates the hard work that went into it.

Motion by Luse, second by Zittergruen, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Consent Agenda
  - a. Minutes of the December 21, 2020 regular meeting
  - b. Claims
  - c. Resolution 3150, setting a public hearing on the Maximum Budget Levy for FY22 (*February 1, 2021, 5:45 pm*)
  - d. Resolution 3151, resetting a public hearing on zoning code amendments, Chapter 17.140 – Floodplain Management Ordinance 17.120 – F-1 Floodplain District in the City of Decorah; *February 1, 2021 at 5:45pm*
  - e. Appointment of Mike Ashbacher as Fire Chief, Jeff Clement as First Assistant Chief, and Lee Bjerke as Second Assistant Chief, *per city code section 2.14.020*

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Consideration of Council Rules of Procedure was opened for discussion. Lengthy discussion was held on numerous items such as:

- how to handle submitted letters/correspondence - should items be read, just referenced, or not addressed
- should minutes reflect just formal action taken or be a formal transcript of the entire meeting
- noted later in the meeting, consideration should be given to permanent ZOOM access to meetings

No formal action taken.

This being the time and place for a public hearing on zoning code amendments, Chapter 17, related to storage containers the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Ordinance 1261 amending Chapter 17 relating to storage containers was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Luse, second by Schissel, to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Schissel, Zittergruen, Hadley, Johnson. Voting nay: Carlson, Neal. Motion carried.

This time the time and place for a public hearing on zoning code amendments relating to residential definitions, dwellings, rooming/boarding houses the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Ordinance 1262 amending Chapter 17.68; 17.72; 17.76 residential definitions, dwellings, rooming/boarding houses was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Luse, second by Neal, to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Neal, to waive and second and third readings and place the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on a purchase and development agreement with 3chicsrental, LLC, the hearing was opened.

City Manager Bird noted there is information pending for the agreement. No public comment at this time.

Motion by Luse, second by Schissel, to continue the public hearing until February 1. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Carlson, to table Resolution 3152 approving a purchase and development agreement with 3chicsrental, LLC. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1264 amending Chapters 2.16 and 2.48 of the City Code related to the status of the Chief of Police. Motion by Luse, second by Johnson, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1264. After lengthy discussion, Luse made a motion to amend the motion to reflect the following language change – “The City Manager shall not have the authority to discipline the Police Chief without the approval of the Mayor. Second by Hadley. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski announced council committees will remain the same for 2021 with Zittergruen replacing Bergan. She also announced the following representatives to various community boards:

Decorah Jobs – Zittergruen and Johnson  
Hotel/Motel – Johnson Schissel  
Winneshiek Co. Economic Development – City Manager  
Decorah Area Chamber of Commerce – Schissel

Motion by Luse, second by Carlson, to approve the Mayor re-appointments to the Tree Board:

Scott Timm  
Tina Hall  
Brent Parker

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Neal, second by Johnson, to approve the Mayor appointment of Steve Zittergruen as the council liaison to the Municipal Electric Utility Task Force. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Neal, Johnson, Carlson, Luse, Zittergruen, Hadley. Voting nay: Schissel. Motion carried.

Motion by Hadley, second by Johnson to approve the following Mayor appointments to the MetroNet Board:

Chad Bird, primary  
Chopper Albert, alternate  
Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Carlson, to approve the Mayor re-appointment of Marla Klocke to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Johnson, to approve the following Mayor re-appointments to the Human Rights Commission:

Melissa Koch  
Rowan Collins

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC  
City Clerk, Tr.