

City of Decorah
Municipal Electric Utility Task Force
February 11, 2021 – 9:00am
Meeting Minutes

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. Due to this the Decorah City Hall was partially closed to the public for the February 11, 2021 MEU Task Force meeting. Seating was limited to ensure distancing. The public was invited to participate via electronic means.

Members present included: Carly Hayden Foster, Larry Grimstad, Doug Hamilton, Kristine Jepsen, Andy Johnson, Mark Lovelace, and Karen McLean.

Others present: Mayor Lorraine Borowski, Council Liaison Steve Zittergruen, Sustainability Commission chair Jim Martin-Schramm, and City Manager Chad Bird.

There was a total of five people on the Zoom link.

Consider approval of minutes from the January 14, 2021 regular meeting

Motion by Lovelace and second by Jepsen to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 MEU task force meeting

Roll call vote: Ayes, unanimous.

Motion passed.

Items for discussion and possible action

1. Process for naming replacements to the taskforce

There was general discussion about possible candidates for the two vacant seats. The conversation included submitting candidate names to the Mayor and City Council for approval and appointment.

2. Information in the MEU Taskforce Dropbox

Bird described how the link to the Dropbox works. There was discussion about adding files to the Dropbox and Hayden Foster reviewed some of the documents in the Dropbox.

3. FAQs about the MEU Taskforce – PR

Hayden Foster opened a discussion regarding the communications of the work of the task force. She reviewed a FAQ sheet and engaged in discussion about how to answer and respond to some of the questions being asked in the community.

4. Timelines for workflow for each subcommittee

Hamilton stated he would gather work information and develop a timeline.

5. Budgets – anticipated expenses for subcommittees

Zittergruen suggested the council has allocated funding, they would welcome reports and budget requests as the task force would present / develop specific requests.

6. Goals for the next meeting

There was general discussion about what each team is working on.

7. Feasibility Study

There was general discussion on the timeline to complete a new review or study and the group suggested late fall 2021.

Hamilton agreed to seek quotes and budgets for study updates and review.

Johnson stated the goal is get real data, which would need to come from Alliant. There was general discussion about how this is confidential information so how does the city, its boards and commissions, keep it confidential. What role does the IUB have in obtaining confidential information.

8. Grant Writing and funding exploration

Jepsen discussed the grant deadlines and noted funding is available so the task force should move on this piece. There was discussion about documenting and securing funding from the city.

Reports from each subcommittee: what have you learned

These items were generally discussion in the above sections.

Discussion on future meeting dates

1. Second Thursday of the month
 - i. March 11
 - ii. April 8
 - iii. May 13

Other business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16am by Hamilton / Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad A. Bird
City Manager

Sustainability Plan

E.3 ACTION: Establish a Municipal Electric Utility (MEU) task force and commission a MEU Feasibility Study to be completed by fall 2021 (potential update of previous plan).