

**City of Decorah Council Work session  
Monday, December 28, 2020 – 5:00pm**

The City Council met in a work session on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 5:00pm. Mayor Lorraine Borowski called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Randy Schissel, Emily Neal, Steve Luse, Ross Hadley, Steve Zittergruen, and Kirk Johnson.

Absent: Andy Carlson

Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird, City Clerk / Treasurer Wanda Hemesath and several dept heads.

**Agenda**

Discussion regarding municipal electric utility objectives and initiatives

*There was general discussion regarding the intent of the MEU task force and using the task force as a learning session and educational tool.*

*There was also council discussion about having the city or the council serve as a lead facilitator of the discussion and public education of the information surrounding an MEU initiative. Johnson indicated part of the challenge in education is many community members know what they have in Alliant Energy, it is a known entity.*

*It was discussed that a round-table session be convened to learn about what other cities in the industry do and what they know.*

*Luse opined about asking Alliant for information and data. He asked if an ask could be made with an expectation of truth this time around?*

*Hadley expressed importance for communication and information and said these are crucial.*

*Mayor Borowski noted she would like a direct link and report from the MEU to the City Council on a regular basis.*

*Zittergruen expressed interest in a council liaison to the MEU task force. Neal agreed, noting she wants a council resource on the task force.*

*Mayor Borowski suggested Zittergruen serve as the council liaison and report to the council.*

*Zittergruen said he would like to see more trust and open communication throughout the community.*

*There was discussion about having a council report on the second council meeting of each month. Neal expressed concern about consistent and frequent reporting and information.*

2021 sidewalk improvement plan

*Bird shared information he had received from local attorney Karl Knudson. He noted Knudson had shared concern with some state code provisions and how they may or may not be consistently applied in the City's sidewalk policy.*

*Bird said he and staff would review the letter and develop a response back to Knudson.*

**Downtown Assessment communication**

*Bird and Luse shared interest in developing a cover letter to the recent downtown assessment report. Luse noted he would like to begin soliciting responses from downtown organizations.*

*He would like area organizations to consider what they see as key elements of concern and to outline how they may impact each organization's ability to promote downtown.*

*Bird and Luse noted they would be presenting a letter to council soon.*

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.  
Respectfully submitted,

