

April 5, 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, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Randy Schissel, Steven Zittergruen, Kirk Johnson.

Officer Fallon Cassidy was sworn in by Chief Smutzler followed by the Oath of Office administered by City Clerk, Tr Hemesath.

Mayor Borowski read proclamations for Sexual Awareness Month-April and Garlic Mustard week, April 12-16, 2021

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

- a. Minutes of the March 15 and March 22, 2021 meetings
- b. Claims
- c. Resolution 3179 setting a public hearing for the FY21 budget (May 3, 2021)
- d. Renewal Class C Liquor License for Haymarket including Sunday Sales
- e. Renewal Class C Liquor License for T-Bocks including Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service Area privileges
- f. Renewal Class C Liquor License for The Landing Market including Sunday Sales and Outdoor Service Area privileges
- g. 2021 Farmers Market Lease Agreement
- h. Special Event Applications – March for Life, May 1, 2021 and Nordic Fest, July 22-24, 2021
- i. Resolution 3180 setting public hearing for the 2021 East Main St. Improvement Project (May 3, 2021)

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1269 increasing water rates 2% was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Schissel, second by Neal, to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Zittergruen to waive the third and final reading thereby placing the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1270 increasing sewer rates 2% was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Schissel, second by Zittergruen, to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Neal, to waive the third and final reading thereby placing the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1272 creating Chapter 13.44 Stormwater Management and Amending Chapters 13.49 and 16.04 of the municipal code was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Hadley, second by Schissel to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Hadley to waive the third and final reading thereby placing the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Johnson to approve the site plan for 308 Sumner Ave., Winneshiek County Ag Association. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hadley, second by Luse, to approve a request from the Sustainability Commission and City staff to use franchise fee funds to install two electrical vehicle (EV) charging stations. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Consideration of Resolution 3181 authorizing submittal of an application to the FY2022 Community Project Funding program was opened for discussion. The U.S. House Appropriate Committee is accepting requests for Community Project Funding in appropriations bills for the upcoming year which may require matching funds.

Permanent Stormwater Pump Station, Library Retaining Wall, Short St and Industrial Lane Improvements are the three projects being proposed for submittal. It is unknown at this time if we are eligible to receive funding. If we are selected to receive funding, the city may decline if matching funds are not available.

Motion by Hadley, second by Zittergruen to authorize submittal of an application to the FY2022 Community Project Funding program. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1272 creating Chapter 15.12 Building Codes 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 Schissel, second by Luse, to approve Resolution 3182 establishing Building Code fees. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Discussion and possible action on a policy for request for and use of franchise fee funds was opened for discussion.

Motion by Schissel, second by Johnson to require funding requests for use of franchise fee dollars be submitted to council for consideration.

Councilperson Neal stated any requests should go to the Sustainability Commission first for recommendation. We have tasked them with sustainability plan execution.

Councilperson Johnson does not want the funds used for legal fees or continuing fights with Alliant. Believes the community will expect it to be spent on useful things which have value.

Councilperson Neal stated if we want to pursue a municipal electric utility this money will need to be used for legal fees for that process.

Councilperson Schissel stated other sustainability projects should have consideration.

The Mayor called for the vote. Voting aye: Schissel, Johnson, Carlson. Voting nay: Neal, Hadley, Carlson, Zittergruen. Motion failed.

Motion by Hadley, second by Zittergruen that 50% of the franchise fee funds be appropriated to LOST with the other 50% for sustainability minus FY22 salary costs for the City Forester. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Hadley, Zittergruen, Carlson, Neal, Luse, Johnson. Voting nay: Schissel. Motion carried.

Motion by Neal, second by Luse, that all requests for use of franchise fee dollars be submitted to the Sustainability Commission for recommendation to the council. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Neal, Luse, Carlson, Hadley, Zittergruen. Voting nay: Johnson, Schissel. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.