

City of Decorah Council Work Session

Monday, March 22, 2021 – Immediately following special council meeting at 5:15 pm

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 March 22, 2021 City Council work session 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.

The City of Decorah Council Work Session was held on Monday, March 22, 2021 immediately following the 5:15pm special council meeting.

The City Council met in a work session on Monday, March 22, 2021 immediately following the 5:15pm special council meeting. Mayor Lorraine Borowski called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Randy Schissel, Emily Neal, Steve Luse, Ross Hadley, and Steve Zittergruen, Carlson, Johnson

Absent: Andy Carlson and Kirk Johnson

Others in attendance: City Manager Chad Bird and several department heads.
There were 12 people on Zoom.

Agenda

Use of Franchise fee funds

City Manager Bird stated Council previously indicated their desire to allocate 50% to streets and 50% to sustainability although no formal vote was taken.

	2% \$96,000 January – June 2021	
	50% streets	\$48,000
	50% sustainability	\$48,000
FY22	3% \$288,000	
	50% streets	\$144,000
	50% sustainability	\$93,000
	City Forester	\$51,000
FY23	4% \$384,000	
	50% streets	\$192,000
	50% Sustainability	\$137,000
	City Forester	\$55,000

4% thereafter

Neal stated we need to be clear what funds will be used for. Need funds to explore the MEU process, install electric charging stations and sustainability items our general fund can't support.

Hadley stated we should meet Sustainability Plan Goals before spending in other areas.

Bird and Mayor Borowski stated sustainability funds can and should be used for design of sustainable buildings and remodel of existing facilities – Fire Station and City Hall

Hadley and Neal feel every request for funding should go to the Sustainability Committee for recommendation.

Councilpersons Johnson, Schissel and Carlson stated council should have spending authority without going to the commission. Council should have more input and this is giving a lot of power to an unelected board.

Neal stated Sustainability is only making a recommendation but we should respect the board's decision.

Zittergruen stated the commission should at least be able to comment.

Bird asked if the Commission has developed a budget yet and encouraged them to do so.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Council Work Session Meetings

Special work sessions are scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month at a time agreeable by council or set by the Mayor. The purpose of the work session is to review upcoming action items, to plan and conduct research, or review items for possible action. A special work session may be called by the Mayor or upon petition of three members of the council and shall require notice in compliance with Iowa law; a verbal / written notification shall be given by the Mayor to each Council member. Only matters placed on the agenda for the work session meeting shall be discussed.