

City of Decorah
Municipal Electric Utility Task Force
April 8, 2021 – 9:05am
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 March 25, 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, Andy Johnson, Mark Lovelace, Doug Hamilton, and Karen McLean.

Others present: Mayor Lorraine Borowski, Council Liaison Steve Zittergruen, Sustainability Commission chair Jim Martin-Schramm, and potential interest in joining the task force (Larry Wilson & Reginald Laursen). Several other community members were present.

Consider approval of minutes from the March 25, 2021 regular meeting

Items for discussion and possible action

1. Hayden Foster call to order & Introductions
2. Potential new member considerations – Foster moved to recommend to City Council, Larry Grimstad second. Unanimous approval of Larry Wilson, Reginald Laursen, & Thomas Marquardt
3. Approval of March 11 minutes – Foster motion, Lovelace second, unanimous approval
4. Approval of March 25 minutes – Foster motion, Johnson second, unanimous approval
5. Borowski confirmed that the grant application for a total project of \$29,999 was submitted in a timely manner by Kristine Jepsen. Borowski expressed great appreciation of Jepsen's quality of work, the time and energy that was put into the application on a voluntary basis. \$23k of the application was for the pursuit of a consistent data set from Alliant and/or the IUB. The other \$6,999 was for community outreach and education.
6. Discussion of Budgetary Needs:
 - a. Breakdown from now until 6/30/21, then another time period during the next fiscal year from 7/1/21 thre 6/30/22.
 - b. Lovelace & Zittegruen expressed that we consider that these financial requests are used wisely and efficiently since they are coming from the sustainability commission fund that has been created by the franchise fee.
 - c. Grant Writing – no requests of funds at this time
 - d. Feasibility - \$10k request for the process of requesting a consistent data set from Alliant and/or the IUB. \$45k next year for feasibility study & \$20k legal work.
 - e. Community Outreach - \$0 this year and potentially \$2k in the next fiscal year.
7. Other business
 - a. Discussion about future meetings
 - b. Zittergruen emphasized that we continue to push more transparency throughout the process
 - c. Martin-Schramm asked to hear an update from our community discussions at the next meeting

- d. Future committee assignments will be determined after City Council approves new task force members.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Sincerely,



Mark Lovelace
MEU Task Force member

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).