

June 21, 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: Ross Hadley, Steve Luse, Steven Zittergruen, Kirk Johnson, Emily Neal, Andy Carlson, Randy Schissel

Motion by Johnson, second by Carlson, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the June 7, June 14 and June 16, 2021 meetings
- b. Claims
- c. Resolution 3198 extending salary period for Interim City Manager (Extending Resolution 3167)
- d. FY22 Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor Permits
- e. Engineering Services Agreement with Erdman Engineering for asphalt work Main St. area

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on amending Chapter 1504 C-3 Design Criteria, sign permit approval process, the hearing was opened.

City Clerk, Tr. Hemesath explained the Zoning Administrator has the authority to grant sign permits across all zoning districts except the C-3 Design Area District. Planning and Zoning unanimously recommended the Zoning Administrator have the authority to issue permits within the C-3 Design area as well. Given all signs brought to P & Z for review and approval are vetted and comply with the C-3 sign requirements it is appropriate to streamline this process for applicants. Applicants will be given the Historic Preservation Commission Guidelines upon application.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Ordinance 1277 amending Chapter 1504 C-3 Design Criteria – Sign Permit Approval Process was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Schissel, second by Carlson, to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Zittergruen to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings thereby placing the ordinance on its' final adoption. Several stated they would like to proceed with a second reading. Schissel withdrew his motion.

This being the date and time for a public hearing for a Driveway Easement with 3chicsrental, LLC, the hearing was opened.

No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Hadley, second by Schissel, to approve Resolution 3199 approving the Driveway Easement with 3chicsrentals, LLC. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

The new Fire Station Ad Hoc Committee recommended Brunton Architects and Engineers as the consultant to complete the site recommendation and preliminary plans for the following reasons:

- ✚ Expertise in design of public safety buildings
- ✚ One stop shopping - Structural/design/civil engineers on staff with choice of client civil engineer as desired
- ✚ President/CEO is the Lead design Architect with 30 years of experience and over a decade of volunteer firefighter experience
- ✚ Award winning public safety design firm
- ✚ Sensitivity to the life, safety and welfare of building occupants
- ✚ Self-developed site evaluation/selection matrix
- ✚ Self-developed 3D modeling program allowing for visual 3D details of the proposed finished product – interior and exterior
- ✚ History of completing finished project within budget

Jeff Ode, Fire Engineer, advised he and Zach Kerndt had visited several facilities designed by Brunton. They were very impressed with both facilities and staff at each location indicated the process with Brunton went great.

Discussion was held on the possibility of the Administrative Office and Park/Rec moving to another facility and retrofitting city hall as a public safety building.

Motion by Hadley to approve the recommendation contingent upon a 7.5% design fee. Motion died for lack of second.

Motion by Zittergruen, second by Luse, to approve the recommendation for site selection and preliminary design for a new fire station. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Consideration of installation of a sidewalk along College Drive between Hilltop Drive and Ridge Road was opened for discussion.

Councilperson Zittergruen stated crossing the street at Hilltop Drive to get to the sidewalk is a matter of pedestrian and child safety. Believes a sidewalk should be installed from Hilltop to Ridge Road crossing by Luther. We could have an impact on safety relatively quickly.

Councilperson Johnson stated the Dahly Addition has no sidewalks. If we are going to require a sidewalk here, we should require sidewalks throughout the entire addition.

Councilperson Schissel questioned if there have been many incidents here. Captain Herrmann replied no but noted there is a lot of foot traffic at this location. Schissel stated there were a lot more kids in the neighborhood when he grew up than there are today and nothing happened.

Councilperson Neal stated one incident is too many.

There are 2 properties which would be affected by this - Nick Pearch and Luther College. Nick Pearch, new owner of 201 Hilltop Dr. believes this is a bit unfair to make them responsible for an entire neighborhood. Would appreciate other options being considered rather than just being his responsibility.

Motion by Hadley, second by Neal, to table pending further discussion. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Hadley, Heal, Luse, Johnson, Schissel, Carlson. Voting nay: Zittergruen. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski announced her appoint of Steve Runde to the opening on the Civil Service Commission. Borowski was questioned about past information indicating two openings. Borowski explained there is technically one opening but that another member has indicated his willingness to resign if another individual is found who wishes to be appointed.

She stated her intention, at this time, to only fill the current opening. Motion by Johnson, second by Schissel, to approve the Mayor appointment of Steve Runde to the Civil Service Commission. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski read a retirement notice letter submitted by Wanda Hemesath, City Clerk, Tr. effective 10/8/21.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.