

City of Decorah Work Session
Monday, April 26, 2021 5:15pm

Electronic meeting to pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8-incircumstances where such a meeting is impossible or impracticable 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 April 26, 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 April 26, 2021 at 5:15 pm. 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: Interim City Manager Wanda Hemesath and several dept heads. There were also individuals participating through Zoom.

Agenda

Discussion on downtown bike racks, parettes, downtown dining for consideration and recommendations

City Engineer, Jeremy Bril, went through information that he had obtained from The National Association of City Transportation Officials website to the Council. He went through the suggestions that were provided by this website on how to allow the outdoor dining safely and look appropriate. The discussion showed support to allow restaurants to obtain a permit for a space in front of their building for outside seating. Certain members felt that the City of Decorah should help out their industry with what COVID has done to their businesses. Another felt that this year should be a trial run for a permanent seasonal option. The feeling is that if the City Council shows that they are in support of this seasonal option, the restaurants will start investing money to make this a success.

There was also concern that if the City Council does this for the restaurants, how they can say no to other businesses that wish to use a parking space to sell their goods.

Vision report for SSMID College Drive Landscape Plans-Ross and Jeremy
Ross Hadley and Jeremy Bril spoke regarding the west side of Decorah and what they are proposing to do to make the area more green and inviting. Bril showed the Council pictures from the west side with the plans on where they would be installing grass and possibly different varieties of plants in the area of the College Drive Bridge and along the street going North.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm

Keri Sand, Deputy City Clerk