

City of Decorah  
Municipal Electric Utility Task Force  
July 8, 2021 – 9:02am  
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, Reg Laursen, Mark Lovelace, Kristine Jepsen, Larry Wilson and Karen McLean.

Others present: Mayor Lorraine Borowski, Council Liaison Steve Zittergruen, and several other community members were present.

Items for discussion and possible action


1. Hayden Foster call to order.
2. Approval of April 22, 2021 minutes (McLean & Grimstad) and June 10, 2021 minutes (Wilson & McLean).
3. Alliant's response to data request and next steps related.
  - a. Grimstad – follow up with specific questions
  - b. Lovelace – appreciate trying to work with Alliant, but if they won't work with us, then the IUB and our charge from the sustainability commission is to pursue this data set in order to avoid two separate feasibility studies in the future.
  - c. Jepsen – agree that more detailed questions can be the next follow-up, and worth continued dialogue with Alliant.
  - d. Zittergruen – agreed that this would be the best way to move forward
  - e. McLean – include direct quote from IUB in the next letter request. The IUB wants to insure reliable info is provided if there is another feasibility study. Jepsen mentioned that the subcommittee is already working on this language.
4. MEU presentation at next City Council Work Session – July 26, 2021
  - a. McLean & Lovelace will present what they have heard as common themes in their discussions with large employers and large energy users.
5. Discussion of potential guest speakers, and other means of gathering information to address questions raised by outreach group.
  - a. Foster – timeline to consider?
  - b. McLean – proposed that Grimstad and Laursen help generate a list of potential names
  - c. Lovelace – suggested listing topics to consider
  - d. Mayor Borowski – find previous transitioned communities or failed communities, and Grimstad mentioned Winter Park, Florida as a potential community.
  - e. Grimstad – use previous lists, existing municipalities, panel discussions
6. Future Meetings
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month at Noon
  - b. August 6, September 3, & October 1

7. New Business

- a. New members placed on subcommittees
  - i. Wilson on Feasibility with background in infrastructures
  - ii. Laursen, Grimstad, & Marquardt on Education & Outreach
    1. Grimstad suggested that good conversation have taken place and he doesn't want to get in the way of this work that has been done. McLean suggested focusing on the Education aspect of the group and gathering names and suggesting potential topics, guest speakers or panelists.
- b. Wilson mentioned accessing a Energy News Blog that provides valuable information to learn on current topics in the industry.

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:56 am – Hayden Foster

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).*