

December 20, 2021

The regular meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Borowski at 5:45pm

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers and electronically

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: Emily Neal, Ross Hadley, Randy Schissel, Kirk Johnson, Steven Zittergruen, Steve Luse

Absent: Andy Carlson

Dr. Laurie Meinholz of 207 E. Water Street addressed the Council regarding the process of remodeling to the City's Building Codes. She stated that the process was not clear and would be costing her a lot of money.

Elisabeth Mauras and Diane Whealy of 112 Winnebago Street also addressed the Council regarding the City's Building Codes and the cost that it takes to abide by the regulations.

Russell Novak of 410 Heivly Street spoke that the cost of having to hire an architect has made him rethink of improving the Skyline Lanes Building.

The newly elected Kirsten Olson and the reelected officials including Mayor Borowski and council members Ross Hadley, Steven Zittergruen, and Randy Schissel stated the Oath of Office.

Chief Smutzler performed the ceremony of promoting Officer Dustin Van Gundy to Sergeant.

Luse made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Schissel seconded the motion.

- a. Minutes of the December 6, 2021, City Council Regular Meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Tax Abatement-Mike Hovden-700 5th Avenue-remodel
- d. Tax Abatement-Jarod & Rachel Schuman-547 Massman Dr-New Construction
- e. Tax Abatement-Quandahl Investment-104 Highland Drive-4 Plex New Construction
- f. Final Pay App for 2021 Asphalt Resurfacing Project
- g. Resolution 3236 accepting 2021 Asphalt Resurfacing Project as Complete
- h. Change Order #3 for E Main Street
- i. Final Pay App for E Main Street
- j. Resolution 3237 accepting E Main Street Project as Complete
- k. Final Pay Estimate for Oneota Drive Bridge

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion passed.

Chief Smutzler and Officer Yaneff presented information on possibly starting a K-9 Unit. Chief Smutzler discussed the history of K-9 Units and the Decorah Police Department. Officer Yaneff went through the latest statistics of narcotic, mental health and missing person calls. The intention would be to have the K-9 trained to assist in all these situations.

Stephanie Fromm gave an update on the Sunflower Discovery Center. They have been continuing to raise money and are currently at 5.3 million dollars. The project is hoping to break ground sometime next year.

At 6:50 pm Mayor Borowski opened the public hearing regarding rezoning 2324 Sweet Parkway Road from commercial to multi-residential.

Ken Vandenberg, 504 Terrace Street, stated that he felt the Business Park was created for business and he believes that it should not be rezoned.

Martin Refsal, 308 Day Street, feels that the area should not be rezoned. He stated that with the amount of money that has already been invested in that area would be lost if the City rezoned the property.

Chris Rygh, 2239 Oil Well Road, stated that he is the Pastor of the Prairie Lakes Church. He feels that allowing the property to be used as a church would help the community. It would fill a need of the community and improve quality of life. The church has done this very thing in multiple communities and has been successful. He would hope that there would be some route that the church could take to remedy this and get this taken care of.

Janelle Pavlovec, 507 W. Main Street, agrees that this area should not be rezoned. If you rezone this area, where would it stop?

Harlan Satrom, 402 Upper Broadway, feels that this property should be rezoned. This could bring in a large number of people that would be spending money in Decorah. This would be economic development for Decorah.

Trevor Seibert, 350 Picnic Woods Drive Waukon, stated that he owns land in the Decorah area and he spoke in favor of the rezoning.

Public hearing was closed at 7:11 pm.

Zittergruen made a motion to table the Ordinance 1287 until January 18, 2022, Hadley seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Aye: Zittergruen, Hadley, Johnson Nay: Schissel, Neal, Luse. Motion failed

Discussion was had regarding other routes that the property owners could take to be able to use the property as a church without permanently rezoning the property.

Kirk Johnson made a motion to table Ordinance 1287 until January 3rd, 2022, Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to authorize the City of Decorah to participate in the Resilient Iowa Communities Program, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to allow staff to assist nonprofits with activities that has a public purpose, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Luse made a motion to approve Resolution 3235 proposing an easement agreement with Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum and setting a date for a public hearing for January 18, 2022. Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to eliminate the Cable TV Commission with Ordinance 1285, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Luse made a motion to waive the second and third reading of Ordinance 1285 eliminating the TV-Cable Commission, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve Ordinance 1286 to increase Sustainability Commission from 7 to 9 people. Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Aye: Neal, Luse, Zittergruen, Hadley, Johnson Nay: Schissel. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to waive the second and third reading of Ordinance 1286. No second. Neal removed her motion.

Luse made a motion to approve the Northeast Iowa Community Action 28E Agreement, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to approve the Northeast Iowa Community Action Funding for FYE 22, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Johnson made a motion to approve Northeast Iowa Community Action-EARL Public Transit funding for FYE 22, Schissel seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve the Decorah Area Chamber of Commerce 28E Agreement, Hadley seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve FYE 22 funding for the Decorah Area Chamber of Commerce, Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve the Winneshiek County Development and Tourism 28E Agreement, Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve FYE 22 funding for the Winneshiek County Development and Tourism, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve the Humane Society of Northeast Iowa 28E Agreement, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve the FYE 22 funding for the Humane Society of Northeast Iowa, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve the 28E Agreement for Helping Services, Hadley seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve the FYE 22 funding for Helping Services, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve the RSVP 28E Agreement, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve the NAPA site plan, Johnson seconded the motion. There was discussion on what would be expected of NAPA. Greg Swanson said he has not seen a building plan, so he is not able to answer that question. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to reappoint Rick Hadley to the Airport Commission for a six-year term, Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski announced that there were seats open on the Telco Board, Planning and Zoning Board, Board of Adjustment, Tree Board, and the Sustainability Commission. She would request that individuals that wish to apply have their applications into Decorah City Hall by January 10th, 2022.

Adjourned by motion at 8:48pm

Keri Sand
City Clerk/Finance Officer