

February 21, 2022

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.

The meeting was opened by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Olson and second by Luse to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the January 24, 2022, Work Session and February 7, 2022, Minutes
- b. Claims
- c. Tax Abatement for Travis Massman, 506 Massman Dr-New Construction
- d. Renewal of Class C Liquor License with Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales for the Winneshiek County Fair
- e. Renewal of Class C Liquor License pending Dram Shop for Your Place

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Mark Muggli of the Decorah Historic Preservation gave the annual report.

Jon Nielson of Perry Novak Electric gave a presentation on power purchase agreements and how they work. Luse made a motion to authorize the city staff to work with Perry Novak Electric in creating a power purchase agreement in potentially purchasing solar power from a private investor for the electricity for Decorah Campground and Decorah Street Department. Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to table the 2022 and 2023 Rural Fire Association Contract until the contract could be updated to show the negotiated amounts and the updated member's names. No one seconded the motion. Motion failed.

Luse made a motion to approve the 2022 and 2023 Rural Fire Association Contract with the contract stating that the Rural Fire Association will pay \$40,000.00 for fiscal year 2022, \$44,000.00 for fiscal year 2023 and for fiscal year 2024 the increase will be determined by the Consumer Price Index from January to January. The remainder of the contract will stay the same as in prior years with the exception of removing Louie Courtney and inserting Dale Johnson for the Rural Fire Association. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Carly Hayden Foster gave an update on the Municipal Electric Utility working with the Iowa Utilities Board. Hayden Foster reported that Alliant Energy has declined to meet with the City of Decorah and the Iowa Utilities Board. The MEU is requesting to hire a lawyer to represent the City of Decorah during the meeting with the IUB.

Kent Klocke of 702 Center Avenue, Decorah spoke against the City of Decorah requesting data from Alliant Energy. He felt that information is the proprietary's information and Alliant Energy should not have to give that information out.

Hadley made a motion to approve hiring a lawyer for representation for this meeting not to exceed \$7500.00 with a portion of that money coming from a grant. Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Hadley, Zittergruen, Johnson, Luse, Olson and Neal. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Luse made a motion to approve a letter to be sent to the Legislature regarding the Council's views on stormwater, Local Option Sales Tax, and Right of Way Management with the addition of mentioning concern regarding flooding in the stormwater section. Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to approve Resolution 3249 approving the preliminary plans and specifications, cost, and schedule for Decorah 2022 Alley Improvement Project. Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1288 amending Chapter 13.44 Stormwater Management Ordinance. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

The City Council discussed a proposal of changing the compensation for the Mayor and the City Council members. It was discussed that Council Members should be compensated at a higher rate than the current \$50.00 per meeting and they should also be compensated for the work sessions and any other meetings that require the whole council to be present. City Manager, Travis Goedken, will gather more information and it will then be discussed at a personnel meeting when council discusses the nonunion wages for staff.

City Attorney, John Anderson, spoke regarding the public restroom that is accessed through the Bank of the West. The new owner of the bathroom, Beachglass, LLC, would like a new lease written, along with \$800.00 a month for the use of the restroom. Hadley questioned the current lease with Bank of the West and the drive through bank that Bank of the West operates which sits on city property. Mr. Anderson will investigate this situation further and report back to the Council.

The contract regarding the Hotel/Motel Revenue was discussed. The current contract on how the revenue is used is about to expire and the Council needs to decide on how they wish to move forward with use of these funds. After much discussion the council gave the City Manager direction to present a contract to council with the breakdown of 30% given to Decorah Jobs, 25% given to Winneshiek County Development, and 45% given to Park and Recreation up to \$500,000.00. Anything beyond the \$500,000.00 would be for the council to decide on how to utilize for economic development. This will be presented at the next council meeting.

Mayor Borowski appointed Kevin Klosterwill and Jim Trapp to the Sustainability Commission. Luse made a motion to approve these appointments, Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Olson, Luse, Zittergruen, Hadley, Johnson. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Keri Sand  
City Clerk-Finance Officer

