

July 18, 2022

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

The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers and electronically.

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent: Randy Schissel

Carly Hayden-Foster presented an MEU update to the City Council. The MEU has been conducting educational sessions where other MEU's have been coming to Decorah and presenting information to whom ever would like to listen. The MEU has two sessions remaining. The next MEU meeting is August 17th, 2022.

Motion by Zittergruen, seconded by Hadley to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the July 5, 2022, Regular Meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Ridiculous Days Special Permit
- d. Renewal of Class C Liquor License with Sunday Sales for Corner Bar
- e. Renewal of Class C Liquor License with Sunday Sales for Fairfield Marriott
- f. Renewal of Class E Liquor License with Class B Wine and Class C Beer with Sunday Sales for Backwater Spirits and More

Roll call vote. Ayes: Zittergruen, Hadley, Neal, Johnson, Luse, Olson. Motion carried.

Luse made a motion to approve the request of up to \$2,000.00 for the MEU to have the educational sessions transcribed, Neal seconded the motion. There will be grant funds that will be reimbursable for a portion of the cost. Roll call vote. Ayes: Luse, Neal, Olson, Zittergruen, Hadley. Nays: Johnson. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to approve the site plan for Skyline Lanes for a new addition, Zittergruen seconded the motion. Ayes: Hadley, Zittergruen, Johnson, Olson, Neal, Luse. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski opened the public hearing at 6:11 pm for the plans, specifications, form of contract, and taking bids for the Decorah 2022 Pleasant Avenue Improvement Project. No public comment. Mayor Borowski closed the public hearing at 6:12 pm.

Hadley made a motion to approve Resolution 3284 rejecting the bid for the Decorah 2022 Pleasant Avenue Improvement Project. Luse seconded the motion. The City Engineer, Jeremy Brill, informed Council that the bid came in \$45,000.00 more than anticipated so they would like to look at the cost of asphaltting Pleasant Avenue. Roll call vote. Ayes: Hadley, Luse, Zittergruen, Johnson, Neal, Olson. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3285 setting a public hearing for August 15, 2022, on the Decorah 2022 Pleasant Avenue Improvement Project, Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Olson, Zittergruen, Hadley, Johnson, Luse. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3286 approving setting a public hearing for August 15, 2022, amending sections 17.16.135, 17.68.030, and 17.80.030 related to fence requirements. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Olson, Zittergruen, Hadley, Luse, Johnson. Motion carried.

Luse made a motion to approve Resolution 3287 setting a public hearing for August 15, 2022, regarding amending sections 17.08 and 17.52 related to loading and parking space requirements. Hadley seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Luse, Hadley, Zittergruen, Olson, Neal, Johnson. Motion carried.

City Manager, Travis Goedken, went over the current process for tax abatements and the rebate process that Decorah currently has in place. The Council then discussed what they would like to see happen with the housing abatements and the rebate process for businesses. Decorah is currently working with Dorsey and Whitney to help achieve the goals of the council. The housing goal would be to limit how much the homes can abate and reduce the number of years. The rebate process would remain similar to what is now in place where each development would be negotiated individually. Goedken will continue to work with Dorsey and Whitney to start the process of any changes that need to be made.

The Council spoke regarding the Bird Scooter's that have started doing business in Decorah. There have been concerns with minors riding the scooters and where the scooters are being left around Decorah. August Greenberg, who manages the fleet for Bird's Scooters, was present to speak. He stated that there are steps that Bird Scooter's can take to address some of the issues. Bird Scooter's does have the ability to ban individuals who do not leave the Scooters in an appropriate place. Chief of Police, Dave Smutzler, spoke regarding the number of complaints that his department has received. Smutzler stated that if these scooters are left on private property, it is not the police department's job to remove the scooters. Bird Scooter's needs to be taking care of the scooters and picking them up. Hadley and Zittergruen both feel it is too soon to end the relationship with Bird Scooters. They feel more time is needed. The City Manager will arrange for the representative that originally spoke to the Council to be available at the next meeting.

Janelle Pavlovec announced that there will be an open house at the Senior Citizens Hospitality Center on August 24, 2022, from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Adjourned at 8:08 pm



Keri Sand
City Clerk-Finance Officer