

February 19, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Borowski at 5:45 PM.

The meeting was held at the Decorah Council Chambers and electronically.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Randy Schissel, Emily Neal, Kirsten Olson, Christopher Miculinich, Steven Zittergruen (Zoom), Ross Hadley, and Brent Parker

Mark Muggli with the Decorah Historic Preservation Committee presented the annual report.

Consent agenda was presented.

- a. Minutes of the February 5, 2024, Meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Decorah 2024 Dry Run Diversion Channel Improvement Project
- d. Residential Tax Abatement at 217 Hilltop Drive – Alexandra White and Bruce Arendt
- e. Amendment Special Class C Retail Alcohol License-Ownership Change-Vesterheim Museum
- f. Amendment Class C Retail Alcohol License-Add Privilege-Convergence CiderWorks
- g. Renewal Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service-Lefse Trolls LLC
- h. Renewal Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service-T'Bock's Sports Bar and Grill
- i. Amendment Class B Alcohol License-Ownership Updates-Kwik Star #629
- j. Amendment Class B Alcohol License-Ownership Updates-Kwik Star #1081
- k. Amendment Class B Alcohol License-Ownership Updates-Kwik Star #1190
- l. Approve Erdman Engineering Professional Services Agreement for Decorah 2024 Heivly Street Improvements-Utilities
- m. Approve Agreement for Technical Services with Strand Associates for Decorah Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
- n. Approve Task Order 24-01 with Strand Associates for Design, Bidding, and Construction Administration for Decorah Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
- o. Approve Task Order 24-02 with Strand Associates for Solar Feasibility Study for Decorah Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Ross Hadley requested that letter O be removed from the consent agenda. Olson made a motion to approve the consent agenda except for letter O. regarding Task Order 24-02 with Strand Associates. Parker seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried. The contract with Strand Associates for the solar feasibility study for the wastewater treatment plant was discussed. A consensus was reached to not move forward with the study. No action was taken.

Mayor Borowski opened the public hearing on amending Chapter 17.16 related to digital and electronic signs at 6:08 PM.

Benji Nichols of 412 Oak Street gave a history of planning and zoning and why things were managed the way they were. The proposed changes will help with the process. Does caution about allowing signs, especially digital, in all districts.

Mark Muggli of 722 Washington Street stated that the Decorah Historic Preservation Committee has appreciated the limitations that the city has put for electronic and digital signs in the C-3 District. The committee has not looked further into the matter for other districts, including historic districts.

Mayor Borowski closed the public hearing at 6:14 PM.

Schissel made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 17.16 regarding digital and electronic signs. Miculinich seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Schissel, Miculinich, Olson. Nays: Zittergruen, Hadley, Neal, Parker. Motion denied.

Schissel made a motion to approve the Aase Haugen ALTA Plat of Survey, Miculinich seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Schissel, Miculinich, Hadley, Zittergruen, Olson, Parker. Nays: None. Neal abstained from the vote due to being related to an investor. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to approve the Hearthside Fireplace & More site plan with the following contingencies:

1. The site plan did not include the legal description of the property, the present zoning, or contour lines. This information should be provided as required.
4. The site plan does not show an accessible/ADA parking stall. Based on the number of stalls in the parking lot, a minimum of one van-accessible ADA parking stall is required.
5. No bicycle parking is shown on the site plan. A minimum of one bicycle parking stall needs to be provided.

Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to accept the Decorah Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Michelle Barness, representing the Sustainability Commission, spoke regarding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant application. Barness explained the intentions of the program and how they would want to use this grant. They believe that this program would help tenants save up to \$117,000.00 in energy costs over a ten-year period. This plan would be implemented at the Woolen Mill Apartments and the Washington Court Apartments. Also, part of the plan would be to offer free energy audits to low-income households, followed by energy coaching to connect them with Inflation Reduction Act energy efficiency incentives.

City Manager, Travis Goedken, led the discussion on the fiscal year 2025 budget. He explained that the council will be setting the public hearing at the next council meeting in March and so if there is any interest in changing anything in the proposed budget, now would be the time to have that conversation. Council pointed out that the non-profit requests for the NEICAC-Family Assistance and the Northeast Iowa Housing Trust Fund should be funded with LMI Funds and use of Sustainability Funds to cover the difference of what is available for LMI funds and the amount of the requests.

Mayor Borowski announced that there are openings on the Human Rights Commission, the Sustainability Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Civil Service Commission. The city will be accepting applications until filled.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM

Keri Sand  
City Clerk-Finance Officer