

February 6, 2023

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

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mark Muggli of the Decorah Historical Preservation Commission presented the annual report.

Consent agenda was presented.

- a. Minutes of the January 3, 2023, Regular Council Meeting
- b. Minutes of the January 9, 2023, Work Session
- c. Minutes of the January 10, 2023, Work Session
- d. Minutes of the January 17, 2023, Regular Council Meeting
- e. Minutes of the January 30, 2023, Work Session
- f. Claims
- g. Tax Abatement-Adam and Chelsey Bohr 2342 Shagbark Lane Rd-New Construction
- h. Consider Renewal of Special Class C Retail Alcohol License-Mabe's
- i. Consider Renewal of Class E Retail Alcohol License-Hy-Vee
- j. Consider Approval of New Tobacco Permit-Decorah Vape & Smoke
- k. Reappointment of Mary Ann Humpal to the Regional Housing Authority Board

Olson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski opened the public hearing regarding the FY 24 Maximum Property Dollars at 5:55 pm. No public comment. The public hearing was closed at 5:56 pm. Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3339 approving the proposed FY 24 Maximum Property Dollars, Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve Resolution 3340 setting the public hearing for FY 24 proposed budget for March 6, 2023. Schissel seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Olson made a motion to approve Resolution 3341 setting a public hearing for Decorah Generators Mitigation Project for March 6, 2023. Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve Resolution 3342 for construction of Decorah 2023 Alley Improvement Project, Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

City Manager, Travis Goedken, and City Engineer, Jeremy Brill led a discussion on the alley assessment process. The staff has prepared a draft alley assessment policy that would change how the City of Decorah assesses alleys in Decorah. The policy would assess 4" of asphalt for half the alley width, crushed rock subbase for half the width of the alley, excavation for one half the width of the alley, and 25% of linear footage of concrete drainage flumes. Hadley had recommended to focus on a percentage that could be used for every project but City Attorney, John Anderson, explained that a homeowner should be charged what is considered special benefit to their property. Neal expressed she would also like to see a policy for the assessments of the streets. The City Engineer will move forward with formalizing a policy to present to Council for consideration.

The City Manager discussed the Iowa Legislature and what bills are currently being considered, along with bills that are in committees and may be considered by Iowa Legislature in the very near future. There is a very large amount of funding that could potentially be cut from the City's budget that would have a negative effect on services for the City of Decorah. Kirk Johnson pointed out that if these bills were to pass, they would be affecting every city in Iowa and cities would have to make very tough decisions. Zittergruen stated he felt that this would be taking local control away from the citizens of Decorah. The general consensus of Council was for the City Manager to prepare a letter for Council to sign to be sent to our state representatives.

Mayor Borowski reminded everyone of the vacancies on the following boards and commissions:

- a. Telecommunications Board (1)
- b. Civil Service Commission (1)
- c. Human Rights Commission (2)
- d. Board of Appeals (5)
- e. Sustainability Commission (1)

Mayor Borowski put a deadline to receive applications by February 16, 2023.

Meeting adjourned 6:58 pm

Keri Sand
City Clerk-Finance Officer