

April 3, 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, Ross Hadley

Lupita Josephine Solis was present from the Riverview Center speaking regarding April recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Mayor Borowski read and signed the proclamation.

Consent agenda was presented.

- a. Minutes of the March 20, 2023, Regular Meeting and March 27, 2023, Work Session Minutes
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal of Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service for Vesterheim Museum
- d. Renewal of Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service for B.P.O. Elks #443
- e. Special Event- Vesterheim Museum Syttende Mai, May 17, 2023
- f. Tax Abatement at 105 E Rural Avenue for Beth and Greg Eide-Rehabilitation
- g. Resolution 3353 Setting Date for Public Hearing for Decorah 2023 Street Improvement-Asphalt Resurfacing Project
- h. Consider Resolution 3354 Setting a Date of Meeting at which it is Proposed to Approve a Development Agreement with WSSA Decorah VA LLC, Including Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments

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

Mayor Borowski opened the public hearing on the proposed fiscal year ending 2024 budget at 5:52 pm. No public comment. The public hearing was closed at 5:53 pm. Luse made a motion to approve Resolution 3355 that approves the fiscal year 2024 budget, Zittergruen seconded the motion. Zittergruen pointed out that the increase in spending for fiscal year 2024 is a lot of one-time purchases and projects, this will not necessarily happen in future budgets. Roll call vote. Ayes: Luse, Zittergruen, Neal, Johnson, Hadley, Olson. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski opened the public hearing at 5:57 pm on resolution of necessity for the Decorah 2023 Alley Improvement Project.

Jim Hoeg from 303 Center Avenue spoke wanting the specifics on how the assessments are paid and how long the residents have to pay the assessment. City Manager, Travis Goedken, explained how the process has worked in the past. He also explained that it would be further into the process before the Council decided how long to give residents to pay. The letter that the residents received regarding the alley project showed the maximum amount the city could assess; the assessment could be lower.

The public hearing was closed at 5:59 pm. Schissel made a motion to approve Resolution 3356 approving the necessity for the Decorah 2023 Alley Improvement Project, Hadley seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski opened the public hearing on proposed amendment on the 2022 Bluffside Urban Renewal Area at 6:03 pm. No public comment. The public hearing was closed at 6:04 pm. Luse made a motion to approve Resolution 3357 declaring necessity and establish an urban renewal area and approve urban renewal plan amendment for the 2022 Bluffside Urban Renewal Area. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance providing for the division of taxes levied on taxable property in April 2023 addition to the 2022 Bluffside Urban Renewal Area. Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Luse made a motion to approve Resolution 3358 conditionally vacating and conveying right of way easement to Interstate Power and Light Company in exchange for driveway easement approving easement release and acquisition agreement. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 12.40 regarding trees and shrubbery, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Hadley, Neal, Olson, Zittergruen, Luse, Johnson. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Olson made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapters 12.28 and 12.32 and multiple sections related to City sidewalks with the language that would allow the police department to give out a citation for not removing the snow from the sidewalks. The process would remain the same as the property owner would get a 24-hour notice to remove the snow off the sidewalk. If removal is not completed, the police department can write a citation. Luse seconded the motion. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance increasing the water rates 12%, Luse seconded the motion. Zittergruen stated that the city is having to increase the water rates to keep up with inflation and be able to maintain the water equipment. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance increasing the sewer rates by 6%, Olson seconded the motion. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve the Farmer's Market Lease for 2023 and waiving the \$16.00 per event fee, Zittergruen seconded the motion. Schissel explained that he felt that the Farmer's Market should have to pay the \$16.00 per event fee instead of having an in-kind agreement with them. Multiple other council members felt that the Farmer's Market brings people into town. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Zittergruen, Johnson, Luse, Olson, Hadley. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

The Council members discussed the possibility of an additional zoning district to have stricter regulations in the C-3 District, and more specifically, the Water Street Historic District. Johnson felt that the Council should not be telling the business owners what to do with their property. Neal and Zittergruen were for looking into another zoning district to protect the downtown area. Olson was concerned that it may possibly have unintentional consequences if the Council were to move ahead with it. The City Manager was directed to speak with the Planning and Zoning Commission and get their thoughts on the subject.

Luse made a motion to rescind the appointment of Bill Courtney due to not meeting the living in the city limit for at least five years and giving a 30-day notice to appoint John Moellers to Civil Commission. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Keri Sand  
City Clerk-Finance Officer