

June 05, 2023

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: Steve Zittergruen, Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson, Steve Luse, Randy Schissel

Absent: Emily Neal, Kirsten Olson

Consent agenda was presented.

- a. Minutes of the May 15, 2023, Regular Meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Partial Pay Application #1 for 2023 Street Improvement-Asphalt Resurfacing Project
- d. Partial Pay Application #2 2022 Pleasant Avenue Improvements Project
- e. Reappointment of Aaron Detter and Molly McNicoll to Sustainability Commission
- f. Tobacco Permits
- g. Renewal and Ownership Amendment to Class E Retail Alcohol License-Casey's General Store #1591 College Drive
- h. Nordic Fest Special Event Permit

Hadley made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Hadley, Luse, Johnson, Schissel, Zittergruen. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve Resolution 3372 to increase the payment from the Rural Fire Association from \$44,000.00 to \$50,000.00 for fiscal year 2024 and then renew annually for a total of five years, with subsequent years increasing by the 12-month CPI in January of the renewal year. The contract will auto renew annually unless either part is notified by February. Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Zittergruen, Luse, Schissel, Johnson, Hadley. Motion carried.

Luse made a motion to approve a resolution regarding the fee structure that would increase the building permit fee schedule and fees associated with the Decorah Police Department, Schissel seconded the motion. Zittergruen stated that he did not feel it was right to add another cost to the citizens for housing. Hadley felt the police department fees were not high enough to cover the costs of performing the tasks. Chief of Police Dave Smutzler explained that the state regulates what the department can charge. Luse felt the fees should increase. Roll call vote. Ayes: Luse, Schissel, Johnson. Nays: Zittergruen and Hadley. Motion failed due to not being a two thirds majority vote.

Johnson made a motion to approve the Kratz Subdivision Plat, Schissel seconded the motion. Zittergruen requested clarification from Johnson whether he was approving the Kratz Subdivision Plat with or without the contingencies put forth by the Planning and Zoning Commission. After discussion Johnson amended his motion to approve the Kratz Subdivision Plat with the contingencies put forward by the Planning and Zoning Commission, Schissel seconded the amended motion. The developer, Tade Kerndt spoke to Council regarding the development. Zittergruen felt that this would still cost the city money and will be voting against it. Hadley explained that he was changing his vote from how he voted in the past and would be voting for it. Hadley feels that it would bring people to the area and kids to our school system. Roll call vote. Ayes: Johnson, Schissel, Hadley. Nays: Luse, Zittergruen. Motion fails due to not being a two thirds majority vote.

Hadley made a motion to approve a one-time grant of \$10,000.00 out of the electric franchise fee funds to the Sunflower Child Development and Discovery Center towards a Watershed Exhibit based on the Upper Iowa River watershed. Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Hadley, Luse, Zittergruen, Johnson. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

City Manager, Travis Goedken, led a discussion of potentially allowing food trucks on public property. Goedken explained that he has prepared two generic ordinances regarding how to handle food trucks and needs the council's input in which direction that the council would like to go. One ordinance would allow food trucks on city property through a special event permit process that would have to be approved at a council meeting. The other ordinance would allow food trucks through licenses that would be obtained through the clerk's office. The Council would set rules that the food trucks would have to follow. Schissel, Johnson, and Zittergruen stated that they would be in favor of food trucks being handled through special event permits instead of the license option. Luse opted for the license avenue and Hadley would like more time to talk to his constituents and see how they feel. Russ Novak requested to speak to Council. Novak is the owner of King Pin in Decorah and explained that he and other business owners have invested a great deal of money into their businesses and does not feel it is right that food trucks would be able to sell on city property. He stated that the food trucks do not give back to the community and schools like the brick-and-mortar businesses. Novak is fine with food trucks being on private property, just not public property. Kyle Holthaus of Kymar Kafe food truck of Waukon Iowa spoke. He is one of the food trucks that is at Decorah's Farmer's Market. He explained that he pays the Farmer's Market for the stalls that he operates out of. He feels that it is nice to have different options for people in

Decorah. Goedken said he would continue working on the special event ordinance for food trucks and would wait until two council members request it to be on a future agenda.

City Manager Goedken led a discussion regarding municipal elections with the council. The city had adopted a runoff election format for elected positions. This means to be an elected official; you would need to receive 50% + 1 of the total cast votes. If a seat had more than two candidates running, this could trigger a runoff election if none of the candidates received the 50% +1 votes: potentially costing the city additional money for a runoff election. The other option would be for the Council to approve the process that would allow the candidate with the majority of votes to win. Luse and Schissel stated that they feel the candidate with the majority of the votes should be considered the winner. Zittergruen, Johnson, and Hadley felt that the process should remain as it is now. A candidate would have to receive 50% + 1 vote to be considered the winner of the seat. Goedken stated he would not proceed with any changes at this time.

Mayor Borowski brought forth five applicants for the Board of Appeals. Borowski is proposing Aaron Dahlen, Travis Massman, Dexter Quandahl, David Finholt, and Travis Grawin for the Board of Appeals. Schissel made a motion to approve the proposed applicants, Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Schissel, Zittergruen, Luse, Johnson, Hadley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski announced that there is an opening on the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission. The city will be taking applications until June 15, 2023.

Schissel made a motion to table the closed sessions regarding the City Manager and City Clerk reviews until all council members are available, Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Schissel, Luse, Hadley, Johnson, Zittergruen. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm

Keri Sand
City Clerk-Finance Officer