

September 18, 2023, Special Meeting

The special meeting was called to order by Mayor Borowski at 7:46 PM.

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

City Manager Goedken explained that he had multiple council members request a special meeting to address the flag policy.

Neal explained the reasoning behind the request for a special meeting was that in light of the vandalism that happened over the weekend, she is requesting that the city leave the PRIDE flags up until next Monday to show solidarity with our LGBTQ plus community. Hadley explained that due to the request from Vesterheim Museum to fly the Norwegian flags because of dignitaries coming to Decorah, he would suggest that the street department take the PRIDE flags down on Friday morning when the street department puts up the Luther College flags and the Norwegian Flags. After discussion and clarification from the City Attorney, it was determined that there is no need to change the flag policy to extend the flying of the PRIDE flags.

The Council then discussed the option of making a public statement denouncing the vandalism that occurred over the weekend. City Manager Goedken stated that it would take a meeting and a vote for the Council to release a statement. Goedken explained that the mayor could draft a mayoral proclamation, this could then be sent to the media.

Neal made a motion to leave the PRIDE flags up until Friday to show the support and solidarity with the LGBTQ plus community, Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Olson, Johnson, Hadley, Luse, Zittergruen. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 PM

Keri Sand
City Clerk-Finance Officer