

October 16, 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: Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson, Steve Luse, Randy Schissel, Kirsten Olson, Emily Neal, and Steve Zittergruen

Consent agenda was presented.

- a. Minutes of the October 2, 2023, Meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Tax Abatement at 1001/1003 Glen Barth Circle-New Construction-Aase Haugen Senior Services
- d. Tax Abatement at 1002/1004 Glen Barth Circle-New Construction-Aase Haugen Senior Services
- e. Special Event-5K Freedom Run: Empowering Veterans through Outdoor Wellness
- f. Consider Pay Application #2 for the Decorah 2023 Alley Improvements Project
- g. Consider Pay Application #3 for the Decorah 2023 Street Improvements-Asphalt Resurfacing Project
- h. Mural Permit Application-206 W Main Street

Olson made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the special event application for the 5K Freedom Run. The special event application will be discussed separately. Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried. Hadley made a motion to table the special event application, Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Melissa Koch presented the annual report for the Decorah Human Rights Commission.

Mayor Borowski opened the public hearing on the sale of the city owned property in the vicinity of Decorah High School Softball Diamond and the corner of Claiborne Drive and Heivly Street at 6:05 PM.

Herb Hageman of 300 Pleasant Hill spoke regarding the tennis courts and softball fields. He requested information on whether these will be replaced and where they will go. Hageman felt it was important that kids should be able to walk or ride their bikes to these facilities.

Mark Lovelace of 305 Grove Street wanted to applaud everyone that has been involved in this decision. This decision will make for a better school, city, and community. Lovelace would like everyone to trust the process of the city council and the school board. It has been 13 years since this has started being discussed, let's get this done.

Mona Nelson of 505 Leif Erikson Drive commends everyone for working on this collectively. It is important to find healthy ways for communication and get accurate information regarding the impact on taxpayers. Nelson is in full support of this.

Ron Fadness of 701 Day Street is in strong support of this decision. This is the best economic development we can do. We need outstanding facilities to bring in families.

Elliott Johnson of 106 Spring Street wants to encourage everyone to vote in favor of this. The teachers are impacted by the school's condition in the beginning of the year and the end of the year by the heat. This decision will help with the shortages of teachers.

Aaron Zander of 112 Crescent Avenue had lived in Chicago and returned to Decorah because of the schools. His child attends John Cline and nothing has changed since 2008. Zander commends the city council and the school board for this. Vote in favor of this decision.

Carol Sand of 706 Fifth Avenue requests that the council provides as many details tonight as possible. The community needs details so that they can fully understand how this will benefit us.

Matt Beatty of 705 Fifth Avenue is a concerned parent of two boys. What happens if the council does not pass it this time? What is the plan if that happens. Beatty is in full support of this.

Tim Cronin of 1009 Ridgewood Drive stated that there has been a lot of compromise on both sides of the school Board and city council. This plan is mutually beneficial. There will be discussions on the tennis courts, at this time they are not sure where they will go. Cronin is in strong support of this.

Janelle Pavlovec of 1102 Nordic Drive stated that there needs to be a lot of explanations once the decision is out. Where is the recycling and the 48-parking going to go? Many people use this.

Laurie Worcester submitted a written comment that was not in favor of selling the land. This document can be found in Dropbox.

Mayor Borowski closed the public hearing at 6:28 PM.

Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3393 approving the declaration of reserved easement for well and access related to sale of real estate to Decorah Community School District, Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Olson, Zittergruen, Johnson, Luse, Hadley. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3394 approving the reserved utility easements related to the sale of real estate to Decorah Community School District. Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Zittergruen, Luse, Olson, Hadley, Johnson. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3395 approving the declaration of reserved sidewalk easement related to the sale of real estate to Decorah Community School District. Luse seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Luse, Zittergruen, Johnson, Hadley, Olson. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3396 to approve facilities use agreement related to the sale of real estate to Decorah Community School District. Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Johnson, Olson, Hadley, Zittergruen, Luse. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Luse made a motion to approve Resolution 3397 approving the sale of city owned real property in the vicinity of Decorah High School Softball Diamond and the corner of Claiborne Drive and Heivly Street. Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Luse, Zittergruen, Hadley, Johnson, Olson, Neal. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve the awarding of the facility assessment to Brunton Architects for \$11,000.00, the lowest bid. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Zittergruen, Olson, Johnson, Neal, Schissel. Nays: Hadley and Luse. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski announced that there are openings on the Telecommunications Board and the Decorah Human Rights Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Keri Sand
City Clerk-Finance Officer