

May 6, 2024

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: Randy Schissel (Zoom), Emily Neal, Kirsten Olson, Christopher Miculinich, Steven Zittergruen, Ross Hadley, and Brent Parker

Tom Hansen of 3469 Locust Rd spoke regarding the flag policy and requested that the council change the policy. He also stated that he will be filing a special event form this fall and if denied he will file a lawsuit against the City of Decorah.

Jody Meyer of 409 Montgomery Street spoke regarding the flag policy. He feels that the current flag policy should be rescinded. The only flags that should be flown on public property in Decorah should be the American flag and the Iowa flag.

Mary Eileen Devine Meyer of 409 Montgomery Street spoke regarding the flag policy. She feels that the United States of America flag and the State of Iowa flag should be the only flags flown by the City of Decorah.

Benji Nichols of 412 Oak Street spoke regarding the finance impact of the trails within Decorah. The council should, in good faith, work on the prioritized, budgeted, ready to go projects.

Devine Meyer of 714 Washington Street had three points that he addressed. 1) He feels the only flags that should be flown are the United States of America flag and the State of Iowa flag 2) Not replacing streetlights and bulbs is not safe for people to walk at night or children to play at night. 3) Bicyclists in Decorah should have to follow all the street laws as vehicles do. It is not a good example for others to see bicyclists not obey the rules of the streets.

Garrett Willie of 710 Washington Street, head coach of the Decorah Mountain Bike Team, emphasized the resources the parks are here for us. An event last year brought in around 82 participants with their families.

Consent agenda was presented.

- a. Minutes of the April 15, 2024, and the April 22, 2024, Meetings
- b. Claims
- c. Tax Abatement-106 Highland Drive Unit 2-Chris and Carrie Moellers-New Construction
- d. Tax Abatement-106 Highland Drive Unit 1-Gerald Leidahl-New Construction
- e. Tax Abatement-604 Decorah Avenue-Erica Riha Reynolds-Rehabilitation
- f. Amendment Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service 09/01/2023-Impact Coffee
- g. Renewal Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service-Winneshiek County Fair
- h. Renewal Special Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service-Vesterheim Museum
- i. New Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service-Vesterheim Museum
- j. New Special Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service and Living Quarters-Convergence CiderWorks
- k. Resolution 3444 Proposing Conveyance of City Owned Real Estate to Kevin and Kristine Quandahl and Setting Public Hearing
- l. Appointment of Tim Felton to Civil Service Commission
- m. Appointment of Trent Ostby to Zoning Board of Adjustments
- n. Payment Application #1 for Decorah 2023 Miller Park Trail Project in the amount of \$81,095.47
- o. Special Event-Driftless Yoga
- p. Special Event-Impact Coffee Trivia Night
- q. Special Event-Live on Winnebago

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

Neal made a motion to approve a resolution that allows city staff to assist nonprofits with specific activities with a public purpose, and to also include an additional statement giving staff the discretion to make decisions to help nonprofits as they seem deemed appropriate. This resolution also included the waiving of the special event fee for the Farmer's Market. After discussion Neal rescinded the motion. Neal then made a motion to approve Resolution 3445 that would waive the Farmer's Market special event fee and add an additional statement to allow city staff to contribute to Decorah Community School District with public safety staff and public safety vehicles to escort student state champions upon return to Decorah. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Olson, Miculinich, Zittergruen, Parker. Nays: Schissel and Hadley. Motion carried.

Brian Krambeer with Mi Energy spoke regarding the fact that Mi Energy would be interested in working with Decorah if they choose to have a municipal electric utility. Mi Energy would be able to provide the utility and services. Zittergruen made a motion to approve Resolution 3446 that would direct staff to hire special counsel for assistance during this process and to set a special election date of March 4, 2025, for potentially establishing a municipal electric utility. Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Zittergruen, Neal, Hadley, Parker, Miculinich. Nays: Olson and Schissel. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to table the discussion regarding the establishing of a water street closure policy, Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to approve Resolution 3447 to approve the acceptance of a proposal for design services by Jon Schubbe Consulting, not to exceed \$28,770.00, for Carlson Park Trail Phase 1B. Miculinich seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance to amend Section 10.52.220 that would give council the authority to allow, per resolution, a lease to the right of way to allow parking in the boulevard. Miculinich seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Olson made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 13.44 of the Decorah Municipal Code related to storm water management. This amendment will bring the city code up to date with the recent changes in law that the State of Iowa has passed. Hadley seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Olson, Hadley, Zittergruen, Parker, Miculinich, Schissel. Nays: Neal. Motion carried.

Hadley made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending Section 8.44.040 regarding yard waste disposal. This ordinance would require contractors to chip limbs and brush to under 8" in diameter to take to the yard waste site. Parker seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried. Hadley made a motion to waive the third reading and adopt Ordinance 1325 amending Section 8.44.040 regarding yard waste disposal. Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Hadley, Zittergruen, Neal, Schissel, Parker, Miculinich, Olson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Olson made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 17.84 R-5 Planned Unit Development District of the Decorah Municipal Code, Neal seconded the motion. This amendment will allow greater flexibility of land use and building locations. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 5.26 regarding the special event application. Miculinich seconded the motion. The amendment will require a 30-day requirement for application and allowing of food trucks in conjunction with a special event permit. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried. Zittergruen made a motion to waive the third reading and adopt Ordinance 1326, Miculinich seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Zittergruen, Miculinich, Parker, Olson, Schissel, Neal, Hadley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Olson made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 6.20 Dogs-Control and Licensing of the Decorah Municipal Code. This allows dogs to either be on leash or an electronic restraint within range of the device. Miculinich seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Olson, Miculinich, Zittergruen, Hadley, Neal, Parker. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried. Olson made a motion to waive the third reading and adopt the ordinance amending Chapter 6.20 Dogs-Control and Licensing of the Decorah Municipal Code. The council then discussed how to educate the public about the potential change. Olson and Miculinich then withdrew their motion to waive the third reading to allow for another opportunity to have a discussion with the public regarding the change at the May 20, 2024, council meeting.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 9.30 Liquor and Intoxication of the Decorah Municipal Code. This would give the council authority to approve, by resolution, the allowance of alcohol on a public street on request. Hadley seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried. Hadley made a motion to waive the third reading and adopt Ordinance 1327 amending Chapter 9.30 Liquor and Intoxication. Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Hadley, Neal, Olson, Parker, Zittergruen, Schissel, Miculinich. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance to amend Decorah's Sign Ordinance and create Chapter 15.20 of the Decorah Municipal Code, Parker seconded the motion. Multiple changes to the sign ordinance are addressed in the amendment. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Parker, Zittergruen, Hadley, Miculinich, Olson. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

City Manager, Travis Goedken, led a discussion on the wayfinding program. The council gave feedback stating that they would like to see a program that businesses that are not directly on Water Street could purchase an approved sign to direct people to their businesses.

Mayor Lorraine Borowski explained that she had asked staff to bring forward the process to change the park board from an elected board to an appointed board. She said that this topic comes up quite often, especially around election time, and she felt it was time to have a discussion on the subject. The consensus of the council was to have a joint work session with the park board in June. The City Manager will move forward with that directive.

Mayor Borowski announced that there are two openings on the Decorah Human Rights Commission and as of July 1st there will be an opening on the Decorah Library Board.

Zittergruen made a motion at 8:10 PM to have council go into closed session due to 21.5(1)(c) closed session pursuant to discuss with council matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where is disclosure would be likely to prejudice the position of the governmental body in that litigation. Olson seconded the motion. Ayes: Zittergruen, Olson, Schissel, Hadley, Parker, Miculinich, Neal. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The council returned to the open meeting at 8:55 PM. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM

Keri Sand
City Clerk-Finance Officer