

November 18, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Lorraine 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, Emily Neal, Kirsten Olson, Christopher Miculinich, Steve Zittergruen, Brent Parker, Mayor Lorraine Borowski, City Manager Travis Goedken, and City Clerk Keri Sand

Absent: None

Public Comment was made by Tom Hansen of 3469 Locust Road. Hansen went over the laws that he felt were broken by Council Member Emily Neal.

Randy Bauer of Cedar Rapids, IA representing Alliant Energy, spoke regarding the MEU special election. Bauer feels that the community already spoke regarding the MEU at the last vote. Bauer would ask that the Council wait until the open seat is filled on Decorah City Council before they vote on whether to have another vote on the MEU.

Gerry Donlon of 104 Highland Drive Unit 1 Decorah spoke regarding the MEU. He has concerns about Decorah taking on the MEU. He feels that it will be a waste of tax dollars due to the lawyer from Dallas Law Office stating that IUB would not hear case based on rate. Donlon urges Council to reconsider.

Munch Sherman of 905 Maple Decorah spoke regarding MEU. Sherman is concerned about the costs of infrastructure, the expertise needed, and the equipment it would take. Sherman states that the IUB will not look at approving an MEU without receiving \$1,000,000.00. The City of Decorah just approved the school bond, and this will cause taxes to increase.

Kent Klocke of 702 Decorah Avenue spoke regarding MEU. Klocke is concerned with everything the city has going on financially; this makes him nervous. The school just passed a bond, there is talk about redoing the Decorah City Hall Building. He wants to make sure the City's finances are safe.

Johanna Bergan of 409 W Main Street Decorah spoke in favor of the MEU. The city should spend money to educate the people of Decorah so they know the truth about what will and will not happen. Bergan asked the Council to "please vote yes" to the MEU.

Cody Whittle of 115 Crescent Avenue Decorah spoke in favor of the MEU. Whittle feels that it is in the best interest of Decorah. Whittle wants to make sure the initial information is clear regarding the ballot information.

The consent agenda was presented.

- a. Minutes of November 4, 2024, Council Meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Reappointment of Trent Ostby to Board of Adjustments
- d. Reappointment of Brian Petersburg to the Airport Commission
- e. Tax Abatement Application for Elvira Estates at 207 E Water Street-Remodel
- f. C-3 Design Application for Jamie Gavle (Rendered Unique) at 115 W Water Street
- g. C-3 Design Application for Cheryl Haggerty and Rodney Flaskerud (Lefse Lodge) at 400 W Water Street
- h. Renewal Application of Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service – The Landing Market
- i. FYE 24 Annual Financial Report
- j. FYE 24 Annual Urban Renewal Report
- k. Resolution 3510 Obligating Funds from Urban Renewal Revenue Fund to Rebound Hospitality FY 26 Payment for Tax Increment Financed Obligations
- l. Resolution 3511 Obligating Funds from Urban Renewal Revenue Fund to KAR Auto FY 26 Payment for Tax Increment Financed Obligations
- m. Resolution 3512 Obligating Funds from Urban Renewal Revenue Fund to Deco Bluffs Hy Vee FY 26 Payment for Tax Increment Financed Obligations
- n. Resolution 3513 Obligating Funds from Urban Renewal Revenue Fund to Skyline Motorsports FY 26 Payment for Tax Increment Financed Obligations
- o. Resolution 3514 Obligating Funds from Urban Renewal Revenue Fund to Bluffside Gardens FY 26 Payment for Tax Increment Financed Obligations
- p. Pay Application #1 for Decorah 2024 Street Improvements-Asphalt Resurfacing Project
- q. Pay Application #2 for Dry Run Creek WQI Wetland Project

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

Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3515 calling for a city special election. Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Zittergruen, Miculinich, Parker, Olson. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Olson made a motion to approve Resolution 3516 approving Amendment 1 to a service contract with ISG for the Dahlen Property bid design. Schissel seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve Resolution 3517, issuing requests for qualifications for energy planning services for EECBG funded program. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve Resolution 3518 approving the final plat for the proposed Decorah Business Park Third Subdivision. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Zittergruen made a motion to approve the site plan for Decorah Ventures at 2342 Sweet Parkway Road with the following contingencies; the final plans meeting all city code requirements including, but not limited to the following: General Regulations 17.16, Site Plan Requirements 17.36.040, 17.36.050 & 17.36.060, Parking 17.52 and per SUDAS, R-3 Zoning 17.76 along with details, spot elevations, drainage pipe configuration showing the layout, basis of design of the stormwater filtration system. Olson seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski announced that the city would be accepting applications until December 6, 2024, for an appointment on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Sustainability Commission. There is also an opening on the Decorah Human Rights Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM

Keri Sand  
City Clerk-Finance Officer