

December 2, 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

Tim Wagner of 505 Franklin Street, Decorah spoke during public comment regarding the Municipal Electric Utility vote. Wagner applauded the City Council for voting to have the second vote regarding the Municipal Electric Utility. He appreciated the City Council educating voters and encouraging voters' participation. Voters need to have good solid information they can trust.

Tom Hansen of 3469 Locust Road, Decorah gave an update on the Decorah Community Thanksgiving Dinner that was held. The dinner was successful again this year. The dinner fed close to 550 meals to the community. It shows what a community can do when we work together for the common good. Hansen stated that this is what frustrates him when some people on the council use the words about diversity, equality, inclusion, and tolerance but only apply this to certain groups or do not want to put forth the effort and sacrifice to make it work.

Carol Birkland of 1018 Walnut Street, Decorah wanted to know why non-Decorah citizens are allowed to use council meetings as a platform to repeatedly air their personal political grievances, attack council members, and threaten lawsuits. Birkland spoke regarding a personal matter that was spoken about in public view, and she felt it was a disgraceful spectacle. Birkland spoke about cities across Iowa that have put reasonable rules in place to ensure orderly meetings.

Jerry Donlan of 104 Highland Drive, Decorah asked the council if they had watched the video with the Iowa Utility Board where Attorney Lynch stated that you cannot do the MEU on rate alone. Donlan stated he wanted to know if the date of the vote can be changed by petition. Does not feel that March is the right time. He will contact the Auditor's Office for that information. Donlan also questioned whether the council knew the dollar amount that has been spent on the election. Donlan feels that it is important to the public that we know what we are spending on the MEU vote.

The consent agenda was presented.

- a. Minutes of November 18, 2024, Council Meeting
- b. Claims
- c. FYE 25 Street Finance Report

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 \$15,000.00 from the Sustainability Funds for educational material distribution such as flyers and direct mailers, along with establishing a webpage dedicated to information on the MEU vote. Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Zittergruen, Parker, Miculinich, Olson. Nays: Schissel. Motion carried.

Mayor Borowski stated that the City of Decorah is taking applications for the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Sustainability Commission until December 6, 2024. There is also an opening on the Decorah Human Rights Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM

Keri Sand
City Clerk-Finance Officer

