

April 7, 2014

The regular meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Don Arendt at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Randy Schissel, Jody Niess, Bill Wagner, Gary Rustad, Paul Wanless, Charles Lore and Tade Kerndt.

Motion by Niess, second by Rustad to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Julie Fischer, Center for Peace and Justice advised the Council of a street cleaning project being undertaken by their organization.

Randy Uhl and Ben Grimstad, Decorah Jobs, gave a presentation of the Community Housing Assessment Team (CHAT) Housing Study. The study demonstrated a need for additional housing in the area. The council was encouraged to pursue a tax abatement program to assist developers or individuals in building new homes or improving existing homes. Referred to Economic Development Committee for study.

Heidi Cook, Decorah Tree Board, spoke to the Council regarding Emerald Ash Bore concerns. She stated the Board is pursuing plantings along boulevards with an ash tree population. She further stated the Board will work with the City on sites where we need help the most.

Motion by Schissel, second by Wagner, to approve items on the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Request from Toy's-Go-Round Lending Library to close the parking lot adjacent to the Library for a Children's Health and Safety Fair Saturday, May 10, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- d. Renewal Class C Liquor License for Haymarket including Sunday Sales
- e. Special Event Application from Vesterheim for Syttende Mai celebration including street closings Sat. May 17, 12:00 – 9:30 pm
- f. Resolution No. 2596, setting May 19, 5:45 pm as the date and time for a public hearing for the proposed FY14 budget amendment

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Lore, second by Schissel to confirm the Northeast Iowa Community Action appointment of Dean Thompson to the TIF/LMI Board. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Lore to approve the 2014 agreement with the Farmer's Market. The new agreement includes using the current handicap spot for the market shed and adds an additional market day – Nov 1, 2014. The current handicap spot will be moved to another suitable location. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Schissel to approve Resolution 2594 amending fees for services and permits. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Niess to approve Resolution 2595 setting May 5, 2014, 5:45 pm as the date and time for a public hearing to amend the urban renewal plan. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1162 vacating public right-of-way on Grove St. was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Niess, second by Rustad, to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1163 amending site plan reimbursement fees was introduced and read for the first time. Councilperson Kerndt expressed concerns that increasing these fees would deter development. Motion by Lore, second by Schissel to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Lore, Schissel, Wanless, Rustad, Wagner, Niess. Voting nay: Kerndt. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.


Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.