

April 21, 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.

Benji Nichols, 412 Oak St. and business owner 400 blk. of W. Water St. voiced concerns regarding the placement of a bike rack in the parking lot adjacent to the Montessori School. Last year the rack was placed on the street just across from its current location. He would like the rack moved back to the street as it was well used last year and is more visible.

Gerald Harvey, 408 W. Water St., stated he has done lots of research on where bike racks should be placed. It needs to be visible and believes relocating to the parking lot is a bad decision.

Andy Nelson, Chm. SSMID Board, stated Decorah Downtown Betterment has voted that placement on the street would be better. Further, the SSMID Board understood it would be on the street as it was last year.

Sharon Huber, business owner 400 blk. W. Water and avid biker, stated businesses in the 400 blk. are working very hard to be successful in their location. She believes the rack being on the street and visible assists with that. Also, as a biker, she prefers to have her bike parked where she can see it.

Drew Stevenson, co-owner Decorah Hatchery, concurred with the visibility concerns and also stated the current location of the rack is a prime spot for children being dropped at the school.

Councilperson Paul Wanless stated it was a council decision, at the recommendation of staff, to place the rack at the end of the block last year. This was to be a trial period to see how it worked. Now the council has decided to place it in the parking lot for a trial period. Council received e-mails within 24 hours after placement complaining about the location.

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

- a. Minutes of the April 7, 2014 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Class B Beer permit for Pizza Hut including Sunday Sales
- d. Renewal Class C Liquor License for Elks including Outdoor Service Area
- e. Renewal Special Class C Liquor License (Beer/Wine) for Luther College including Sunday Sales
- f. Resolution No. 2596, A resolution amending 28e agreement between City of Decorah and Decorah Rural Fire Protective Association

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Kerndt, to table a request to approve the route for an ATV parade pending more detail. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried

Motion by Schissel, second by Wagner, to approve street closings as requested for the Fire Department Fundraiser road race May 3, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

The Winneshiek County Historical Society has requested to accept ownership and responsibility for the recently approved historical walking tour signs. Motion by Rustad, second by Lore, to approve the request. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Schissel, to approve the following Mayor appointment and re-appointment to the Library Board of Trustees for six year terms.

Alan Ellickson  
Alexandra White  
Cheryl Pellet, re-appointment

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Kerndt, to approve Resolution 2597 accepting the bid of \$303,536.50 from Skyline Construction, for the 2014 Street and Alley Improvement Project.

Councilperson Lore expressed concerns with the VFW alley and asked for a cost breakdown. Engineer Erdman responded saying bids are not received that way so he couldn't give the specific cost for that particular alley. Lore believes it is a lot of money for this alley and has concerns about the problems reconstruction could cause adjoining property owners.

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Voting aye: Rustad, Kerndt, Wanless, Schissel, Niess, Wagner. Voting nay: Lore. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Niess, to approve a C-3 Commercial Design application for 207 Water Street, KPVL Radio. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Schissel, Niess, Wagner, Wanless, Kerndt, Rustad. Voting nay: Lore. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Wanless, to approve a C-3 Commercial Design application for 421 W. Water Street, Old Armory BBQ. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Wanless, to approve a C-3 Commercial Design application for 421 W. Water Street, The Courtyard and Cellar. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Kerndt, to reject the Division II bids for the Hwy 9 Utility Improvement Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Kerndt, second by Wanless, to approve Resolution 2598 conveying the above vacated right-of-way to the adjoining property owner. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

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

Ordinance 1164 increasing water rates 1.93% was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Schissel, second by Rustad to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1165 increasing sewer rates 1.93% was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Niess, second by Kerndt, to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC  
City Clerk, Tr.