

August 15, 2016

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, Dan Bellrichard, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Kirk Johnson, Chuck Lore, Gary Rustad.

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

Dr. Paula Carlson, Luther College President, announced their contribution of \$120,000 toward purchase of the proposed aerial truck.

Sean Snyder, Winneshiek County Emergency Management, advised the council of the updated National Weather Service criteria concerning storm warnings and siren protocols.

Bill Nixon, Chief of Police, reviewed the Police Department 2015 Annual Report.

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

- a. Minutes of the August 1, 2016 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Class C Liquor License for Stone Hearth including Sunday Sales
- d. Renewal Special Class C Beer/Wine License for Koreana including Sunday Sales
- e. Change order #1, Airport Hangar Demo and Grading project in the amount of deduct ~~-\$2,995.95~~
- f. PPE #2, Airport Hangar Demo and Grading project in the amount of \$5,736.08
- g. Resolution No. 2752, a resolution of acceptance of the airport Hangar Demo and Grading project and receipt of the engineer's statement of completion

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the time and date for a public hearing on the proposed plans, specs and accepting the bid for the Division Street Storm Sewer Improvement Project the hearing was opened. No public comment. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Bellrichard, second by Luse, to approve the proposed plans, specs, form of contract and accepting the bid of \$103,959.61 from Skyline Construction for the Division Street Storm Sewer Improvement Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Carlson, to fund the budget request for \$1,000 for the Farmers Market Coupon Program. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Lore, to approve the FY17 street improvement plan. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1188 creating a Storm Water Utility was introduced and read for the third time. Motion by Luse, second by Carlson to approve the third and final reading placing the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Lore, to approve Resolution 2754 accepting an FAA grant for the T-Hangar and Taxilane Improvement Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Consideration of the proposed Iowa DNR deer depredation program was opened for discussion.

Shirley Vermace, representing the Park and Recreation Commission, advised the Council of their unanimous decision to recommend not allowing bow hunting in any city park as part of the proposed deer management plan. Decision was based on the following: Public safety, more consideration of private land areas, the need for more public education and awareness, the need for more data – most notable an estimate of measuring the deer numbers. She further stressed it would be more favorable if the season was not so long.

She noted Marshalltown only harvested 22 deer in their hunt. Mayor Arendt noted DNR officials did not indicate any safety related incidents resulting from a managed bow hunt.

Discussion was held on liability with Attorney Zahasky noting signage would be important and information be available so all residents know of program. This would take some liability from the City.

Mike Vermace, 503 Pinecrest, stated he understands the deer problem and is not against some type of plan. He is concerned about the proposed plan in that it restricts hunting on his own property except under the terms and conditions of the plan. Further concerns noted – proficiency testing – not all hunters use a compound or cross bow. He uses primitive equipment which is much different.

Deb Lathrop, citizen and mother, stated she has no problem with hunting but believes this is a safety concern in parks and urged the council to follow the Park and Recreation Commission recommendation. She believes a more detailed conversation about safety is needed and to look into a sharp shooter solution. The plan should be more specific in the regulations and less recommendations.

Spencer Bolson, 1300 College Dr., stated he owns 5 acres within city limits and the more he hears about the plan the less he likes it. He is concerned about the restrictions it puts on him to hunt on his own property.

Renee Gipp encouraged the council to move forward with the program. The deer have no natural predator in city limits. They run through their property, decimate flowers and there are deer/car accidents.

Curt Headington, owner Anthem Archery, 1718 Moellers Drive, agrees with the private property owner concerns. Further, he believes if parks are out of the hunting area we may as well not do it.

Molly McNicoll, 203 Hollihan Street, was called on by Councilperson Lore to speak on the effects of deer in nature. She stated a loss of oak trees and wild flowers in the timber resulting from the deer although there is no specific data for Decorah on how much damage the deer are doing. This problem needs to be looked at as a whole.

Councilperson Rustad stated his desire to address Park and Recreation concerns.

Motion by Rustad, second by Carlson, to table pending further discussion. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Rustad, Carlson, Schissel, Bellrichard, Lore. Voting nay: Johnson, Luse. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Lore, to decline the Decorah School District offer to purchase public land. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

City Manager Bird announced Winneshiek County's contribution of \$145,000 toward the proposed purchase of a ladder truck. He reviewed financial information based on estimates for the city's yearly cost.

Motion by Schissel, second by Luse, to get formal quotes for interest rates from lending institutions before taking action on purchase. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Schissel, Luse. Voting nay: Bellrichard, Carlson, Lore, Rustad, Johnson. Motion failed.

Motion by Johnson, second by Lore to authorize the City Manager to seek financing information and to call Indianola with a purchase offer. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Carlson, to approve the Mayor appointment of Tony Clarke to the Historic Preservation Commission. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC  
City Clerk, Tr.