

December 16, 2013

The regular meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Don Arendt at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Paul Wanless, Carolyn Corbin, Randy Schissel, Gary Rustad, Rachel Vagts, Charles Lore.
Absent: Jody Niess

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

Mayor Arendt read a letter from James McIntosh withdrawing his name from consideration for Councilperson At-Large.

Lorraine Borowski, Library Director, submitted the annual Library Report.

Wanda Hemesath, City Clerk, Tr., presented employee appreciation pins designating years of service to those reaching benchmark anniversaries in 2013.

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

- a. Minutes of the December 2, 2013 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. PPE13 Short St. Improvements - \$7,649.66
- d. Final PE14 Short St. Improvements - \$4,846.55
- e. Change Order #5 Short St. Improvements - \$61,100.58
- f. Resolution 2588 accepting as complete the 2012 Short St Improvement Project and authorizing final payment
- g. Resolution 2589 approving assessments for the 2012 Short St. Improvement Project and setting an interest rate of 5%

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

A request from Ed Epperly and Elizabeth Lorentzen to install historic informational kiosks in the public right-of-way throughout the downtown and historic districts was opened for discussion. Epperly reviewed the various aspects with the Council. This is signage displaying photographs and texts giving the background and history of a particular location and view.

Ben Kratchmer, member of the City Historic Preservation Commission, expressed his concern that the commission was not consulted about this project. He would like it to be recognized that they are the body with jurisdiction for historic preservation and education. He requested the matter be tabled until the commission has a chance to review this project.

Epperly responded saying the Winneshiek Co. Historical Society is the fiscal agent for the project and the focus is on architecture and history – not preservation. They are agreeable to meet with the Commission but would like council action tonight so they may move forward with plans.

Motion by Rustad, second by Wanless to approve the request under direction of the Street Superintendent for placement and in consultation with the Historic Preservation Commission. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Corbin, second by Wanless, to approve a C-3 Design application for Decorah Covenant Church, 115 Washington St. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Corbin, second by Schissel, to approve a C-3 Design application for the Oneota Professional Building, 511 Water St. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Schissel, to approve a site plan for the Psimos Building, 915 Mechanic St. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1159 rezoning M-3 property along Railroad Ave to C-2 General Commercial was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Rustad, second by Vagts, to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.


Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.