

December 21, 2015

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, Kirk Johnson, Andy Carlson, Bill Wagner, Gary Rustad, Charles Lore, Jody Niess

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

Ross Ellingson, IaDNR Deer Depridation Program and Terry Hainfield talked about how to approach and develop a program to control the deer population within city limits by establishment of a deer management zone for hunting on city property and rights-of-way. Hunts are archery only and explained proficiency tests need to be passed before a license is issued. It was noted archery hunting is already allowed on private property.

Jim McIntosh, 607 S. Mill, questioned if professional hunters will be doing this. Councilperson Johnson asked if participating communities fielded complaints about wounded animals. Ellingson explained these types of complaints are nearly non-existent. The proficiency testing is very useful in controlling this.

Bev Crumb-Gesme, 700 Linden, explained the deer problem on her property and encouraged the council to move forward immediately with this process.

Stephanie Fromm, WCDI, reviewed their plans and programs for 2016. She stated funding requests are being approached differently than in the past. 1.50 per capita is being requested to ensure adequate resources to help businesses thrive and to recruit and retain new and existing business. Request will be considered during the budget process.

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

- a. Minutes of the November 16, 2015 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Resolution No. 2702, setting a date for a public hearing on zoning code amendments – rezoning annexation areas, January 4, 2016 at 5:45pm
- d. Consider approval and certification of 2015 residential tax abatement application
 - i. Timothy and Mary K. Lynch, 804 Oakwood Place – completed March 23, 2015
- e. Renewal of Class B Hotel/Motel License for Hotel Winneshiek including Sunday Sales
- f. New Cigarette/Tobacco application for New A.G., LLC, dba Nordic Express
- g. Acceptance of FY'15 Audit Report
- h. PPE #3 2015 Street Improvement Project \$10,846.79
- i. Change Order #1 2015 Decorah Street Improvement Project (-\$11,812.15)
- j. Resolution No. 2703, accepting the 2015 Decorah Street Improvement Project as complete and authorizing payment of final PPE #4 \$16,366.49
- k. Resolution No. 2704, setting a date for a public hearing on an easement agreement with New A.G., LLC for use of public ROW; Nordic Express, January 4, 2015 at 5:45pm

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1177 amending Chapter 8.32 of the municipal code by respecifying certain exceptions to the open burning requirements was introduced and read for the second time.

Father Knipper encouraged the council to not change the current ordinance. Many individuals have breathing problems seriously affected by open burning.

Steve Matter, 501 Leif Erikson Dr., submitted written correspondence stating his opposition to any type of fire pit. He believes the present ordinance works fine.

Councilperson Schissel explained current ordinance already allows for cooking fires. The proposed ordinance adds very specific criteria for open fires to occur making it more comprehensive than current ordinance.

Motion by Wagner, second by Carlson, to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnson, second by Wagner to approve the Mayor appointment of Jeremy Jostand to the Low Rent Housing Agency. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC, ICMC
City Clerk, TR.