

July 23, 2013

The special 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: Jody Niess, Paul Wanless, Carolyn Corbin, Randy Schissel, Gary Rustad, and Rachel Vagts.

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

Councilperson Schissel read from a prepared statement withdrawing from consideration for appointment to the vacant First Ward Council position. His statement read as follows:

"I would like to thank the people who supported my application for the Ward 1 vacancy.

After our meeting on July 15th, it was very apparent no easy solution was to be found. I submitted a letter of interest after the position was officially announced by the council and at that time, no other persons had expressed interest. I confirmed with Secretary of State before applying that it was permitted under state election laws.

On July 17th, I made the decision to withdraw from consideration to save city financial resources and to not give the impression of impropriety by the current council.

To date, I have only been asked to consider withdrawing by one person who lives in Ward 1.

I look forward to continuing to work with this council to ensure the future of Decorah is very positive. Therefore, I officially withdraw from consideration for the Ward 1 vacancy."

Councilperson Wanless wanted to set the record straight regarding the allegation of back office politics that it would have been legal for Councilperson Schissel to have voted for himself at the July 15 meeting but he chose not to in order to avoid any impression of impropriety. Had he voted for himself he would now be the 1st Ward Councilperson.

City Clerk Hemesath gave the oath of office to Mr. Walter whereupon he took his seat at the council table.

Motion by Vagts, second by Rustad to approve Resolution 2567 approving a grant application for the All Town Sign Replacement Program. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Arendt read Governor Branstad's proclamation proclaiming July 21 – 27, 2013 as Water and Wastewater Workers of Iowa week.

Meeting adjourned on motion.


Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.