

June 2, 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. Absent: Charles Lore, Tade Kerndt

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

Jim Collins, Alliant Energy, updated the council on 2014 activities planned in Decorah.

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

- a. Minutes of the May 19, 2014 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Class B Beer Permit for Toppling Goliath including Outdoor Service Area and Sunday Sales
- d. Street closings for Lawn Chair Nights
- e. Special Event Application for Nordic Fest

Chip Schultz, D.A. Davidson Financial Advisor, reviewed the proposed financing for the 2014 Bond Issue. He further reviewed with Council the use of the Preliminary Official Statement in selling the bonds and the time frame for the sale.

Motion by Wanless, second by Schissel to approve Resolution 2604 authorizing the Preliminary Official Statement relating to the 2014 bond issue. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1166 vacating public parcels along Short and Grant Streets was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Wanless, second by Schissel, to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1167 amending Chapter 10.80 regarding special permits for ATV's and Snowmobiles was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Rustad, second by Wagner, to approve the second reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Rustad, to approve the Mayor re-appointments to the Low Rent Housing Agency as follows:

Norma Smith – term ending 6/9/16

Jim Burns – term ending 6/9/16

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Consideration of FY15 salaries for supervisory and non-union staff was opened for discussion. Motion by Niess, second by Wagner, to fully fund the merit increase per the pay plan and to fund the COLA by .5%.

Councilperson Schissel questioned the change in COLA from 1.93 to .5%. Niess responded saying employees who earned the merit will get it. The .5% COLA gives everyone something. Fully funding the COLA and merit for an average 5% increase seems out of line. Schissel responded saying union staff will receive 2.2% COLA vs .5 for supervisory and non-union staff.

Niess read from a letter submitted by Councilperson Kerndt stating he agrees with the merit increase but doesn't want to fund any COLA.

Councilperson Rustad believes we need to make this an easier process. Felt the Council had agreed to fully fund the pay plan as proposed when the budget was approved. He questioned how much reducing the COLA will save. Niess responded saying she didn't know – the concern is with the proposed average individual 5% increase.

The roll was called. Voting aye: Niess, Wagner, Wanless. Voting nay: Schissel, Rustad. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.