

March 18, 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: John Franzen, Julie Fischer, Paul Wanless, Randy Schissel, Gary Rustad, Carolyn Corbin and Rachel Vagts

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

Motion by Franzen, second by Fischer, to approve items on the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the March 4, 2013 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Class B Native Beer Wine Permit for Donlon's Healthmart including Sunday
- d. Renewal Class C Beer License for Casey's including Sunday Sales

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Franzen, to approve a C-3 Design Review application for 217 Washington St. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Vagts, to close the 300 block of West Water Street, Saturday, May 11, 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the Water Street Music Series subject to receipt of a Certificate of Insurance for the event.

Councilperson Wanless voiced concern about approval of this request being perceived as setting precedence for future requests. General consensus that these types of requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis with determination being made based upon the merits of each.

Councilperson Schissel expressed reservations about what effect closing Water Street has on businesses that are open on Saturday evenings especially during busy times such as Mothers Day Weekend.

Roll call vote. Voting aye: Rustad, Vagts, Wanless, Franzen, Corbin, Fischer. Voting nay: Schissel. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Vagts, to approve a request to close 3 parking spaces in front of the Water Street Park for lawn chair nights held June 20, July 18 and Aug 15. It is anticipated these will be smaller events and this location will provide adequate space. Spaces to be closed 6 – 8 pm.

The event on June 20 will be monitored closely to see how it works. If problems or concerns arise approval of subsequent events will be brought back to the Council for discussion. It was noted Lawn Chair Night activities are covered under the Chamber of Commerce liability insurance.

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

The Winneshiek Energy District submitted a LMI Cumulative Project Report through three quarters (Jan 2013) and requested release of the final allocation. Motion by Vagts, second by Fischer, to release the final \$12,000 LMI allocation to the Winneshiek Energy District. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Vagts, Fischer, Franzen, Corbin, Rustad. Voting nay: Rustad, Schissel. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1152 amending Title 5 – Business Licenses and Regulations of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Decorah by repealing Chapter 5.20 Massage Establishments and Massage Technicians, was introduced and read for the third time. Motion by Vagts, second by Fischer to approve the 3rd reading placing the ordinance on its' final adoption. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Schissel, to approve the following Mayor appointments to the Low and Moderate Income Housing Committee: Keith Bruening and Jan Heikes – community at large appointees, Rachel Vagts, Decorah City Council appointee, Dean Thompson, NEICAC appointee and Reg Laursen, Habitat for Humanity appointee. Newly appointed members will determine how the terms shall be staggered.

Councilperson Vagts voiced concern regarding gender balance. She stated most of City boards have more men than women. She made it clear she had no concerns regarding any applicant but in the interest of more gender equity, she would like to see the other female applicant appointed.

Mayor Arendt stated he had taken a number of factors into consideration when determining the community appointees including age and prior membership on city boards. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Wanless, Schissel, Corbin, Fischer, Franzen, Rustad. Voting nay: Vagts. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.