

May 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Gary Rustad at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: John Franzen, Paul Wanless, Carolyn Corbin, Randy Schissel, Gary Rustad, and Rachel Vagts.

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

Heidi Cook, Decorah Tree Board President, reviewed the Board's annual report noting the City has received the Tree City USA designation for the 10th year in a row.

Chad Bird, City Manager and Chopper Albert, IT Staff Member, reviewed the status of the Metronet Project. 45,000' of fiber installation has been completed.

Sheila Radford Hill, Chairperson Decorah Human Rights Commission, reviewed and submitted the Board's annual report.

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

- a. Minutes of the May 6, 2013 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Consider **Resolution No. 2563** setting a public hearing on vacation of public right-of-way for June 3, 2013 at 7:45pm

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Dean Thompson, representing the TIF LMI Board, gave their recommendation to the Council to fund the Winneshiek Energy District for \$38,019 to cover May 2013 – Apr 2014.

Councilperson Rustad cited his mixed voting record on the Districts' previous request for LMI funding. The times he voted yes he did not receive one positive comment from the public.

He also stated all non-profit requests should come at budget time.

Councilperson Vagts stated it can't be requested every year as it is not an endless pot of money. She stated her belief that the appropriation has an immediate impact on households that are struggling.

Wanless also referred to his mixed voting record. He stated when the City agreed to be the fiscal agent for the OEI Grant we were told it would not cost the City any money. As soon as the grant expired we have been asked for money.

Jim Martin Schram stated when the City agreed to be the fiscal agent for the grant proposal it was anticipated it would not cost the City any money. He understands the perception that they are now asking for funding to continue. He further stated this is not a payment to Winneshiek Energy District it is an investment in low to moderate income families

Motion by Corbin, second by Vagts, to approve a \$38,019 appropriation, to be paid in one lump sum, to the Winneshiek Energy District. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Corbin, Vagts, Franzen. Voting nay: Schissel, Rustad, Wanless. Motion failed.

Motion by Schissel, second by Vagts, to approve the appointment of Andy Nimrod to the position of Park and Recreation Director. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Vagts, second by Franzen, authorizing placement of Tree City USA signs on Montgomery and Short St. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Vagts, to fill the 2nd Ward Council position by appointment. Interested parties to submit a "Letter of Interest" to be received in the Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 pm, May 31. Appointment to be made by ballot vote at the June 3 Council meeting. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Corbin to approve a request to use City property adjacent to 709 Mechanic St. for a garden. This is an area between an alley and Dry Run. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Franzen, second by Corbin, to approve the Mayor Pro-tem reappointment of Mark Kvamme to the Low Rent Housing Agency for a 2 year term. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Vagts, second by Corbin, to approve an engineering agreement with Erdman Engineering for the Steyer Bridge Improvement Project not to exceed \$11,000. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.


Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.