

November 7, 2016

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, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Gary Rustad and Kirk Johnson, Dan Bellrichard, Charles Lore

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

James Kaufman, 206 North St., once again voiced concerns about unnecessary invasive noise from modified exhaust systems and vehicle sound systems. Encouraged Council to work on clarifying existing ordinances and to communicate enforcement of current law.

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

- a. Minutes of the October 17, 2016 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Change Order 1 Pleasant Ave Street Improvements – ~~-\$9,170.13~~
- d. Final PPE 2 and Retainage Pleasant Ave Street Improvements – \$6,152.17
- e. Resolution 2769 accepting final assessments for Pleasant Ave and authorizing certification to County
- f. Resolution No. 2770 accepting the Pleasant Ave Street Improvement Project as complete
- g. PPE 1 Division Street Storm Sewer Project – \$87,403.75
- h. PPE 5 Sweet Parkway Road Improvements – \$54,411.33

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the time and place for a public hearing on natural gas and electric franchise fee ordinances the hearing was opened.

Craig Mosher, 1828 Canoe Valley Road, expressed concerns regarding granting a 25 year franchise to Alliant Energy. The Winneshiek County Energy District is currently reviewing alternative options for providing electrical energy to Decorah. They should be given the opportunity to present their findings to the Council and be able to implement if desired. He felt a 5 year extension would be more appropriate.

Tade Kerndt, 713 W Water St, spoke against adding a franchise fee and felt the city should better manage the money we have rather than adding new taxes.

City Manager Bird explained the proposed 1% franchise fee simply replaces the local option sales tax fee. It does not increase electric or gas bills for residential or the majority of commercial property. The franchise fee merely enables the city to have more flexibility in how those fees are utilized.

Councilperson Lore expressed concerns about the possibility of the 1% being raised. Council was advised the 1% may only be increased by Ordinance and would have to go through this same process to change.

Ordinance 1191 establishing a franchise fee for natural gas providers operating in the City of Decorah was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Luse, second by Bellrichard to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Bellrichard, Schissel, Carlson, Rustad, Johnson. Voting nay: Lore. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1190 repealing Ordinance 938 and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive 5 year franchise to acquire, construction, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of Decorah, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants and requiring said company to pay a 1% franchise fee to the City was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Johnson, second by Luse, to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Johnson, Luse, Carlson, Bellrichard, Schissel. Voting nay: Lore, Rustad. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1192 amending Section 13.04.200 Connection Charges and Sections 10.04.100 and 13.16.090 respecifying permit fees for water and sewer connections was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Schissel, second by Luse, to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Schissel, to approve Resolution 2768 showing intent to offer residential tax abatement for multi-family housing – Water Street Flats Apartments. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding weight and load restriction on certain city streets was opened for discussion. Concerns were noted moving forward with this would limit existing business from doing their jobs.

Mayor Arendt felt idling time restrictions and increased weight restrictions are unnecessary.

It was noted existing code already allows for weight restrictions to be established by resolution.

No action taken regarding weight and load restrictions on certain streets.

Discussion of limiting idling time of heavy duty vehicle was opened for discussion. Discussion was held regarding potential health-related issues, questions as to whether or not we have a problem with extended idling time and exemptions which would be included. Motion by Luse, second by Carlson to authorize preparation of an ordinance limiting idling time of heavy duty vehicles. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Luse, Carlson, Bellrichard, Johnson. Voting nay: Rustad, Schissel, Lore. Motion carried.

Motion by Luse, second by Johnson, the approval and certification of 2016 residential tax abatement applications as follows:

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| a. | Mike Kelly / Craig Symons, 1708 East Hill Road | completed September 2016 |
| b. | Kevin and Jana Albers, 1112 Linden Street | completed October 2016 |
| c. | Jean Cardinal and Margaret Heyden, 1005 Bruening Drive | completed October 2016 |
| d. | Linda Sneller, 2395 Aspen Lane Road | completed September 2016 |
| e. | James and Wendy Jermier, 2411 Red Oak Road | completed August 2016 |

Additions – Garages or improvements

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| f. | James and Elizabeth Fritz, 704 North Street | completed October 2016 |
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Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.