

October 20, 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, Gary Rustad, Charles Lore, Tade Kerndt, Bill Wagner, Paul Wanless

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

Sheila Radford-Hill, Human Rights Commission, reviewed activities of the commission this past year.

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

- a. Minutes of the October 6, 2014 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Class B Native Wine License for Vesterheim including Sunday Sales
- d. Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: 110 Washington Street (Yoga Room – new sign)
- e. Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: 404 West Water Street (Beyond the Bar Bakery – new sign)
- f. Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: 104 East Water Street (Agora Arts – new sign)
- g. Approval of FY14 Urban Renewal Report

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1170 approving the Urban Revitalization Plan/Residential Housing Incentive Program was introduced and read for the second time. Motion by Schissel, second by Kerndt, to approve the second reading.

Mayor Arendt stated whereas this was not a formal public hearing he invited members of the public to speak if desired.

Dave Stanley, 1008 Nordic Drive, spoke against the proposal saying it isn't going to help low income housing.

Craig Spilde, 807 Iowa Ave., stated he had not received any correspondence to his concern at the last public hearing about the lack of documentation available supporting this proposal and showing the amount of taxes it is anticipated would be abated.

Willard Hanson, 1006 College Dr., had hoped the council would take into consideration more spoke against than for the proposal at the last public hearing.

Councilperson Rustad re-stated his desire to set a goal or benchmark for new growth to be reviewed next year.

Councilperson Wanless stated the intent of the program is to incentivize new construction within city limits. He requested an accounting of new home building permits in the past 5 years and identifying what the tax income was and based on that information project the estimated amount of potential taxes that would be abated over the duration of this program.

Mayor Arendt called for the vote. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Schissel, Kerndt, Niess, Rustad. Voting nay: Wagner, Wanless, Lore. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Lore, to table discussion on extension of the completion date for the 2014 Street/Alley Improvement Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Lore, to approve renewal of a lease agreement with Decorah Community Schools for use property for indoor batting cages. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.


Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.