

March 17, 2014

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: Randy Schissel, Jody Niess, Bill Wagner, Gary Rustad, Paul Wanless, Charles Lore and Tade Kerndt.

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

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

- a. Minutes of the March 3, 2014 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Class C Beer License for Casey's General Store including Sunday Sales

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Kerndt, to change the time of the regular council meeting to 5:45 p.m. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Schissel, Kerndt, Niess, Wagner, Rustad, Lore. Voting nay: Wanless. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on the proposed preliminary Resolution of Necessity for the 2014 Street and Alley Paving Project the hearing was opened.

Mark Stockdale, Commander VFW, raised several concerns regarding the alley adjacent to the VFW building. He believes the alley is being improved at this time because a new business just moved in on the east end of the alley and influential people use the alley to access the business. Further, he stated 3 points of concern with the project:

1. If not paved in the correct manner as to not flood his kickout into the building he will be submitting a bill to the city for damages
2. If the snow plow pushes snow against the building causing water damage to the wall he will be submitting a bill to the city for damages
3. Improvement of the alley adds no value to the VFW building. He believes he has the legal right to ask for the assessment back when there is no added value to the property.

Lindsay responded saying he will be checking that area more thoroughly as the snow melts to make sure the drainage is appropriate and that he will be happy to meet with Mr. Stockdale to address his concerns.

City Manager Chad Bird stated Gregory Marten had inquired as to the scope of the work being completed especially on the east end of the alley. He seemed satisfied with the information given.

City Clerk, Treasurer Wanda Hemesath read correspondence from Stan White supporting the proposed Washington St. alley improvement.

Public hearing was closed.

Motion by Rustad, second by Wanless, to approve preliminary Resolution of Necessity #2589 for the 2014 Street and Alley Improvement Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Lore, to approve Resolution 2593 setting April 21 as the date to review and consider bids for the 2014 Street and Alley Improvement Project and April 17, 12:00 p.m. as the date and time bids are due for same. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Rustad, second by Niess, to approve Resolution 2590 approving the Plans and specifications for the 2014 Street and Alley Improvement Project. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

This being the date and time for a public hearing on the Hwy 9 Water and Sewer Improvement Project the hearing was opened.

Dan Baldwin, 809 Ridge Road, read from a prepared statement voicing opposition to moving forward with the project. He does not believe this is the time for a 4.7 mil dollar project that will produce questionable results. Additionally, he does not believe we should consider moving forward with the proposed community center project. He encouraged the Council to take no further action.

Public hearing was closed.

Councilperson Kerndt stated this project has been in the works for 13 years – that is not something that has just been recently considered.

Councilperson Lore echoed Kerndts' comments and stated his hope that the industrial park is the future of Decorah.

Lore also questioned several items he believes have not been thoroughly discussed and considered:

1. The line to the WWTP has more problems than just the size. This line dumps into Freeport's intake. How do we separate that?
2. The condition of the water tower which has sat empty for 7 to 8 years
3. Proposed dump station.

Erdman responded saying the line to the WWTP and the proposed dump station didn't need to be immediately addressed so he hadn't had a chance to study options available. If the council wishes to

move forward with those pieces it can be done. In response to questions regarding plant capacity, it was noted that the design flow is 4 mil gals per day. We are currently running at 1 mil gals per day or about 25% capacity.

Erdman responded to concerns regarding the water tower saying he had spoken with the original engineer of the project who said he was not concerned with the amount of time the tank has stood empty, but rather it was important to put it into use in the proper step sequence.

Motion by Niess, second by Kerndt, to approve Resolution 2591 approving the plans, specs and form of contract for the Iowa Hwy 9 East Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Improvements and accepting the bid from Skyline Construction for Divisions I and III totaling \$2,874,119.20. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Wagner, to keep the option for Division II open for further discussion. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Wanless, second by Lore, to approve Resolution 2592 approving the final plat for the Woodland Acres Subdivision. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Wanless, Lore, Schissel, Niess, Rustad, Wagner. Abstaining: Kerndt – citing the reason that he is the developer of the property.

Motion by Wanless, second by Niess, to approve the site plan submitted by the Humane Society of Northeast Iowa. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Ordinance 1162 vacating public right-of-way on Grove St. was introduced and read for the first time. Motion by Wanless, second by Schissel, to approve the first reading. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.