February 16, 2026

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Carlson at 5:45 PM.

The meeting was held at the Decorah Council Chambers and electronically.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Mayor Carlson, Randy Schissel, Johanna Bergan, Cody Whittle, Christopher Miculinich, Brent Parker, Steve Zittergruen, Emily Neal, City Clerk Keri Sand, and City Manager Travis Goedken

Absent: None

Chief Thein presented Law Enforcement Life Saving Recognition to Investigator David Burrett, Deputy Sheriff Logan Hopp (received by Lieutenant Byron Hook), Dispatcher Isaac Phillips, and Dispatcher Jake Schatz.

Adrienne Coffeen gave the annual report for the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission

Kevin Lee 2526 173rd Ave Decorah spoke regarding IPIB (Iowa Public Information Board) training being held February 18, 2026, at 12:00 PM for newly appointed officials and council. Lee feels it is important because of so much talk about commissions and the process.

Brenon Allsworth 719 Decorah Avenue Decorah spoke regarding the special council meeting held February 13, 2026, during working hours and no public comment. Allsworth stated that this breaks trust and it matters who does and does not get appointed to these boards and commissions because it determines who gets a seat at the table and who gets shut out of public life.

Maria Mc Kain 218 Riverview Drive Decorah spoke stating that when communities speak up against systems that harm immigrants, that is not extremism, that is democracy. When advocacy for immigrant rights is framed as disqualifying the message is clear; voices pushing for real change are unwelcomed in official faces. The community needs recognition that human rights advocacy is not a conflict of interest, it is the purpose of the commission.

The consent agenda was presented.

a. Minutes of January 22, 2026, Work Session
b. Minutes of January 26, 2026, Work Session
c. Minutes of February 2, 2026, Council Meeting
d. Claims
e. Renewal of Class E Retail Alcohol License-Hy-Vee
f. Change Order No. 1 for the Decorah Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project
g. Resolution 3634 Setting a Date of Meeting at which it is Proposed to Approve a Development Agreement with DREF 105-109 E Water Street, LLC, Including Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments
h. Approval of Amended FY25 Annual Financial Report
i. Appointment of R. Ivy Riggs to the Decorah Tree Board – Term Expires 12/31/28

Miculinich made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All voting ayes. Motion carried.

Jim and Liz Fritz gave a presentation regarding the Pavilion Market Plaza. The Fritz's are proposing to build a performance space and a green space in the downtown area using private funds. The plan would include solar panels so that the area can be self-sustaining. The current location that is being proposed is the parking lot below the Oneota Food Cooperative.

Mayor Carlson opened the public hearing on proposal to enter into an essential purpose loan agreement at 7:35 PM. No public comment. Mayor Carlson closed the public hearing at 7:36 PM. Schissel made a motion to approve Resolution 3635 taking additional action on proposal to enter into an essential purpose loan agreement, combining loan agreements, and providing for the levy of taxes to pay general obligation corporate purpose bonds, Series 2026A. Neal seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Schissel, Neal, Miculinich, Bergan, Zittergruen, Whittle, Parker. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Carlson opened the public hearing on amending Title 17-Zoning of the Decorah Municipal Code, Sections 17.68.040, 17.72.040, and 17.76.040 regarding residential bulk regulations at 7:37. No public comment. Mayor Carlson closed the public hearing at 7:38 PM. Schissel made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending Title 17-Zoning of the Decorah Municipal Code; Sections 17.68.040, 17.72.040, and 17.76.040 regarding residential bulk regulations. Bergan seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Schissel, Bergan, Zittergruen, Whittle, Neal, Parker, Miculinich. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Craig Chyle of 406 E Main Street Decorah asked to speak to the ordinance that was just spoken of. Mayor Carlson opened the public hearing back up at 7:40 PM. Chyle explained that he wants to make a garage in the back of his property into an ADU (accessory dwelling unit) and wanted to know how this change in ordinance would affect his ability to continue the project. Chyle was advised that the changes would not affect his plan, but he would still need a variance. Mayor Carlson closed the public hearing at 7:43 PM

Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3636 adopting Iowa Length of Service Award Program and authorizing application to the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Resolution 3636 would allow staff to establish a 457 (e) account with Knox Financial and contribute funds that will be matched by a grant. The funds are currently being contributed to an account for the volunteer's retirement but not being matched with a grant. Whittle seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Whittle, Zittergruen, Schissel, Parker, Miculinich. Nays: None. Bergan recused herself due to her husband being a volunteer firefighter. Motion carried.

Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 3637 authorizing application for RPA-1/UERPC FY 2030 Surface Transportation Block Grant Swap Funding. Zittergruen seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Neal, Zittergruen, Whittle, Parker, Miculinich, Bergan, Schissel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 15.12-Building Code to provide for adoption of the State of Iowa Standards and Rules related to buildings. Parker seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Schissel, Parker, Neal, Miculinich, Bergan, Zittergruen, Whittle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Schissel made a motion to approve Brad Wicks to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Parker seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Schissel, Parker. Nays: Miculinich, Bergan, Zittergruen, Whittle, Neal. Motion denied.

Mayor Carlson announced that there are openings on the Sustainability Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM

Keri Sand
City Clerk-Finance Officer