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**— M A Q U O K E T A —**  
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**Tom Devine, vice president of the Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce, wields the hammer and Stacy Driscoll at right, chamber executive director, holds the large cut-out letter "O" in place as they put up a Christmas tree and letters spelling "JOY" this week on the site of the 2008 downtown fire. Looking on is chamber President Kathy Seyfert. The Maquoketa City Council last week gave the chamber permission to decorate the vacant area. Bill Hainstock, a Maquoketa area Christmas tree grower, donated the tree.**

***There is JOY where there once were buildings destroyed by fire***



MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

**Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce leaders and volunteers show off the Christmas holiday decorations placed this week on the downtown fire site. From left are Kathy Seyfert, chamber president; Abby Skladzien; Sarah Skladzien; Stacy Driscoll, chamber executive director, and Tom Devine, chamber vice president. The decorations include the cut-out letters and the tree. The chamber also plans to place an ice skating rink on the 20,000-square-foot site after the ground freezes later this winter.**

**Zoning of WADY Industries reviewed**

By **DOUGLAS MELVOLD**

The Maquoketa City Council will hold a public hearing next month on a request by WADY Industries of Maquoketa to rezone all of its property to an industrial classification.

The hearing will be held during the council's next meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 6.

WADY is seeking to rezone all of its property to I-2, middle industrial. A portion of its property is zoned R-1, single-family residential.

The 10.3-acre parcel lies in the block bounded by East Grove Street, North Dearborn Street, Pershing Road and North Otto Street.

City Manager Brian Wagner told the council at its Nov. 15 meeting that even though the property is considered one parcel, a portion of it is zoned I-2 and a portion carries the R-1 classification.

Wagner noted that under zoning laws, a given piece of property should have only one zoning classification.

"Property isn't supposed to be zoned part one thing and part another and that happened with WADY's property," Wagner told the council.

Wagner said he doesn't know how the conflicting zoning came about, but said its history may go back decades.

He noted that an industrial building that WADY erected in 1995 near Pershing Road is located in the residential zone.

Lori Fey, WADY manager, said the company wants to have the property zoned correctly, in conformance with its use as an industrial site.

She told the Planning and Zoning Commission earlier this month that most of WADY's neighbors thought the company's entire site was zoned industrial and the company wants to rezone it to match the use.

The issue has drawn the concern of some neighbors about rezoning some frontage on Dearborn Street that WADY to industrial.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the application but requested the council give "special consideration" to the parcel that abuts Dearborn.

Fey said the company has no plans to place a truck access on Dearborn. Trucks serving WADY will continue to use the access at the company's plant at 510 E. Grove Street and on Pershing Road as they do now, she said.

"Nothing is going to change on Dearborn," Fey said in an interview this week. "We want to just keep on doing what we've been doing for a lot of years."

Wagner said if the frontage along Dearborn Street were left as residential and the remainder of the property rezoned to industrial, the property would have to be subdivided.

Residents wishing to comment on the rezoning proposal may do so at the public hearing. They also may contact City Hall or a council member or submit a written comment at City Hall.

In other business, the council approved a plan to pave an access between Shoreline Drive and the boat ramp off Shoreline Drive at the Maquoketa River at no cost to the city.

A portion of the parking area near the boat ramp also will be paved.

Ninety percent of the cost will be paid for with funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency from flooding in 2008. The remaining 10 percent will be paid by the state.

The council also approved a change order that increased the cost of paving the vehicle parking lot at the airport by \$25,898. The

city will pay \$680 of the additional cost; the remaining amount will be paid by the Federal Aviation Administration or absorbed by Snyder Engineering due to problems on the project, including relocating a water line and other unforeseen complications.

Wagner said the project is essentially completed. He approved the change orders earlier to keep the project moving and avoid a having to suspend it for the winter.

The council also approved a request by the Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce to place a Christmas tree and other seasonal decorations in the vacant downtown area that is the site of the January 2008 downtown fire.

They said a Christmas tree was donated for the site.

"We felt it has been such a detriment to the community for so long, we would like to turn it around and make it a positive," said Tom Devine, chamber vice president.

The decorations will remain in place until the week after New Year's Day.

The chamber also is proposing to place an ice skating rink for public use in the same area during the upcoming winter.

Kathy Seyfert, chamber president, said the chamber would seek help from other civic organizations to staff the rink.

Council members approved the plan, but expressed concern about liability insurance coverage.

Councilman Neil Morehead suggested that Wagner check with the city's insurance carrier and to whether the city's liability policy covers such activities.

■ **COUNCIL,**  
 Please turn to page 3