

**CITY OF DUBUQUE, IOWA
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL SESSION**

The Dubuque City Council met in special session at 5:15 p.m. on March 3, 2025, in the second-floor Council Chambers of the Historic Federal Building, 350 W. 6th Street.

Present: Mayor Cavanagh; Council Members Farber, Jones, Resnick, Roussell, Sprank, Wethal; City Manager Van Milligen, City Attorney Brumwell.

Mayor Cavanagh read the call and stated this is a special session of the City Council called for the purpose of setting a public hearing for the proposed fiscal year 2026 property tax rate.

ITEMS SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING

1. Set Public Hearing for Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Rate and Dollars and Taxpayer Statements: Motion by Farber to receive and file the documents, adopt Resolution No. 70-25-A Setting A Public Hearing On The Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Rate And Dollars And Taxpayer Statements, and set the public hearing for March 25, 2025. Seconded by Sprank. Van Milligen gave a presentation and, in response to questions, stated that this year the city is sharing all improvement package requests during the initial recommendation. Chief Financial Officer Jenny Larson addressed a question regarding other expenses and revenues not included in the presentation, such as employee wage increases. Van Milligen confirmed that \$14.31 is the maximum property tax rate the city could request under state-established limitations. City Council Members voiced concerns about state-mandated tax rate notifications, noting that Dubuque properties were not reassessed last year and therefore were not applicable to the assumed 10% property valuation increase by the Iowa Department of Management. Council Members expressed concerns that these state-issued notifications could lead to misinformation. When asked whether the city could mail a notification explaining the taxpayer statement mailer, Van Milligen estimated a cost of \$10,000 for printing and mailing. Instead, the city plans to share information via its website and social media. Van Milligen also summarized the budgeting process, emphasizing the need to balance City Council's goals and priorities while minimizing the financial burden on residents. Council Members supported the recommendation and voiced concerns about unprecedented federal-level processes affecting grant funding and their potential impact on the city. Motion carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cavanagh declared the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

/s/Adrienne N. Breitfelder, CMC
City Clerk