

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

The Dubuque City Council met in special session at 6:30 p.m. on April 8, 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 (attended virtually), Sprank, Wethal; City Manager Van Milligen (attended virtually).

Mayor Cavanagh read the call and stated this is a special session of the City Council called for the purpose of receiving presentations on certain Fiscal Year 2026 Department Budgets.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

City staff presented Fiscal Year 2026 departmental budgets and responded to City Council questions following each presentation. Presentations were given by representatives from the following departments:

1. Airport Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Airport Director Todd Dalsing. Mayor Cavanagh requested that Improvement Package No. 3 for an additional \$10,000 for advertising expenses, which was not recommended, be held for consideration during the final hearing to adopt the budget. In response to questions about why the improvement package was not recommended, Van Milligen referred to the package description, which indicated that the additional advertising was intended for events, rather than for commercial flights. As a result, Van Milligen concluded that the request did not align with the City Council's top priority on air service. Dalsing confirmed that, if approved, the funds could be spent on advertising for commercial air service, which City Council expressed support for. All seven Council Members concurred with holding the improvement package for discussion during the final budget hearing. Council Members requested a report be submitted for the final budget hearing outlining how the funds would be allocated toward commercial air service advertising if approved. They also acknowledged that a recurring improvement package request must be identified to offset the cost of this proposal if they chose to approve it.

2. Purchase of Services Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Assistant City Manager Cori Burbach.

3. Planning Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Planning Services Director Wally Wernimont.

4. Economic Development Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Economic Development Director Jill Connors, Assistant Economic Development Director Ian Hatch, and Arts and Cultural Affairs Manager Bonnie Spurling. Clark Schloz, 2925 Burlington St., spoke on the City's engagement with developers, road use tax funds, and the Unified Development Code (UDC) update.

5. Finance Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Larson, Purchasing and Risk Manager Tony Breitbach, and Utility Billing Supervisor Chris Vallee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cavanagh declared the meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

/s/Adrienne N. Breitfelder, CMC
City Clerk