

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

The Dubuque City Council met in special session at 6:30 p.m. on April 9, 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

Parks and Recreation Director Marie Ware made introductory remarks for the department. City staff then 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. Parks Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal. Jean McDonald, 3120 Eagle Point Dr.; Sue Dillon, 3057 Westmore Dr.; John Dolter, 2111 Orchard Dr.; Kelly Lengeling, 1165 Arrowhead Dr.; Al Pline, 334 Angela Jean Cr., Tom Fondell, 2570 Shiras Ave.; Karen Rokusek, 14248 Augusta Ct.; Mary Klaas, 1605 Lincoln Ave.; Lynn LeBlanc, 2181 Orchard Dr.; Will Meyer, 1856 Rhomberg Ave.; and Rob McDonald, 3399 Eagle Point Dr., expressed concerns about the current condition of Eagle Point Park, noting the deterioration of several amenities, including the prairie, pavilions, and restrooms. They also inquired about the possibility of removing the out-of-service water tower. Several individuals suggested that community volunteers could assist with plant maintenance efforts. Wethal requested Improvement Package No. 3 for a full-time Maintenance Technician position, which was not recommended, be held for separate discussion at the final hearing to adopt the budget. Fehsal confirmed that the proposed position was not considered for a specific location, but that Eagle Point Park would be a good fit. All six City Council members present at the dais concurred with holding the improvement package for discussion at the final budget hearing. Roussell's decision was not confirmed due to technical difficulties.

2. Recreation Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger.

3. Grand River Conference Center Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Parks and Recreation Director Marie Ware.

4. ImOn Ice Center Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Parks and Recreation Director Marie Ware.

5. Five Flags Civic Center Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation: Parks and Recreation Director Marie Ware. Council Member Wethal proposed deferring the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) allocation for Five Flags by one year, recommending that \$750,000 budgeted for Fiscal Year 2027 be withheld and instead used as matching funds for grant applications supporting the establishment of a railroad quiet zone. While Sprank expressed support for the proposal, the remaining City Council Members opposed it, emphasizing the long-overdue improvements needed at Five Flags.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cavanagh declared the meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

/s/Adrienne N. Breitfelder, CMC
City Clerk