

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

The Dubuque City Council met in special session at 6:30 p.m. on April 28, 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 (attended virtually), City Attorney Brumwell (attended virtually).

Mayor Cavanagh read the call and stated this is a special session of the City Council called for the purpose of adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget and Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Amended Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Recommendation: Motion by Jones to receive and file the documents and adopt Resolution No. 144-25 Adopting The City Of Dubuque Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget and Resolution No. 145-25 Adopting The City Of Dubuque Five Year Capital Improvement Program. Seconded by Sprank. During her presentation, Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Larson shared that the City had been issued a termination notice that day from the Federal Administration for a portion of its federal AmeriCorps funding. However, due to limited information available currently, the potential impact on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget remains unclear. She therefore recommended that the City Council adopt the budget as presented. Clark Schloz, 2925 Burlington St., provided input on the city's budgeting process and tax rate. City Clerk Breifelder announced written input was received by Schloz, along with John Klostermann, 1755 Bristol Dr.; Tammy Wehrspann, 1695 Avoca St.; Marc Onken, 2142 Seippel Rd.; Chris Miller, 2273 Southway Dr.; Emma Chambers, 940 Kelly Ln.; Jennifer Chambers, 940 Kelly Ln.; Heather Rath, 15350 Wood Vale Ct.; Natalie Nemmers, 1290 Arrowhead Dr.; Jennifer Nielsen, 200 Fremont Ave.; Jeni Bormann, 1595 Kane; Blaine Nielsen, 200 Fremont Ave.; Kim Finn, 1490 Kaufmann Ave.; Jeff Ronek, 15618 White Oak Dr.; Kelly King, 11123 Hidden Springs Ct.; Kelly Lemm, 2489 Hacidenda Dr.; Susan Kono, 82 Nevada St.; Amanda Saylor, 2450 University Ave.; Mark Matel, 2059 Golden Eagle Dr.; and Jacob Mozena, 900 Jackson St. The amended Fiscal Year 2026 budget recommendation includes a recurring \$10,000 allocation for additional Airport advertising. In response to questions, Larson explained that the balance between operating and capital budgets varies depending on the capital projects proposed, but this year's ratio of two-thirds operating and one-third capital is about average for the City. City Council Members expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts throughout the budget process, thanked residents for their input, and identified potential focus areas for future goal-setting sessions. Council Members also voiced disappointment regarding cuts to AmeriCorps funding. Mayor Cavanagh requested that funding be identified to enable the Director of Strategic Partnerships position to be filled before the originally proposed date of January 1. Van Milligen summarized the budgeting process and noted the city's consistent record of closing each fiscal year with a surplus. If Fiscal Year 2025 also ends with a surplus, some of those funds could be used to accelerate hiring for the Director of Strategic Partnerships position, enabling it to be filled before January 1. The city currently contracts with Teri Goodmann, who previously held the position, for federal relations. The new Director would collaborate with Goodmann while also developing state and local partnerships. After discussion, Council Members agreed with Van Milligen's recommendation to adopt the budget as proposed and to use any surplus funds from Fiscal Year 2025 to expedite filling the position. Motion carried 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Establishing Water Utility Rates for Fiscal Year 2026: Motion by Jones to receive and file the documents and that the requirement that a proposed ordinance be considered and voted on for

passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be passed be suspended. Seconded by Resnick. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jones for final consideration and passage of Ordinance No. 10-25 Establishing City Of Dubuque Code Of Ordinances Title 13 Public Utilities, Chapter 1 Water Use And Service, Article C Rates, Section 13-1C-1(A) Fixing Water Rates For Residential, Commercial, Industrial, And All Other Uses and Ordinance No. 11-25 City Of Dubuque Code Of Ordinances Title 13 Public Utilities, Chapter 2 Sewers And Sewage Disposal, Article C Rates, Section 13-2C-3 Rates Established For Fiscal Year 2026. Seconded by Resnick. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Establishing Sanitary Sewer Utility Rates for Fiscal Year 2026: Motion by Roussell to receive and file the documents and that the requirement that a proposed ordinance be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be passed be suspended. Seconded by Sprank. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Roussell for final consideration and passage of Ordinance No. 12-25 City Of Dubuque Code Of Ordinances Title 13 Public Utilities, Chapter 2 Sewers And Sewage Disposal, Article C Rates, Section 13-2C-3 Rates Established For Fiscal Year 2026. Seconded by Sprank. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Establishing Solid Waste Utility Rates for Fiscal Year 2026: Motion by Jones to receive and file the documents and that the requirement that a proposed ordinance be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be passed be suspended. Seconded by Farber. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jones for final consideration and passage of Ordinance No. 13-25 Amending City Of Dubuque Code Of Ordinances Title 13 Public Utilities, Chapter 6 Solid Waste. Seconded by Sprank. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Establishing Stormwater Management Utility Rates for Fiscal Year 2026: Motion by Roussell to receive and file the documents and that the requirement that a proposed ordinance be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be passed be suspended. Seconded by Wethal. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Roussell for final consideration and passage of Ordinance No. 14-25 Amending City Of Dubuque Code Of Ordinances Section 13-4-5 (D) SFU Rate, Charges; Utility Revenues. Seconded by Wethal. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Five-Year Street Construction Program for Fiscal Years 2026 – 2030: Motion by Wethal to receive and file the documents and adopt Resolution No. 146-25 Adopting The Five-Year Street Construction Program For Fiscal Years 2026 - 2030. Seconded by Sprank. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Planning Services Department Increased Fees for Fiscal Year 2026: Motion by Farber to receive and file the documents and adopt Resolution No. 147-25 Rescinding No. 101-24, Establishing A Schedule Of Development Services Fees, And Adopting In Lieu Thereof A New Schedule Of Development Services Fees As Provided In Title 16 Of The City Of Dubuque Code Of Ordinances, Unified Development Code. Seconded by Sprank. Motion carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cavanagh declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.
/s/Adrienne N. Breitfelder, CMC
City Clerk