

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

The Dubuque City Council met in special session at 6:00 p.m. on July 7, 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, Assistant City Attorney Lehman.

Mayor Cavanagh read the call and stated this is a special session of the City Council called for the purpose of conducting a work session on Four Mounds Foundation.

**WORK SESSION
Four Mounds Foundation**

Consultant Ellen Goodman Miller presented on the work of Four Mounds Foundation. Four Mounds Foundation Program Manager Becky Bodish and Lori Appel, whose child Arica participated in Four Mounds programming, also spoke. In response to questions, Bodish shared the benefits of the programs, the foundation's partnership with the City, and the facility's options for hosting events.

There being no further business, Mayor Cavanagh declared the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

/s/Adrienne N. Breitfelder, CMC
City Clerk

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

The Dubuque City Council met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on July 7, 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, Assistant City Attorney Lehman.

Mayor Cavanagh read the call and stated this is a regular session of the City Council called for the purpose of conducting such business that may properly come before the City Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS

1. Governor's Volunteer Award Recognition: Director of Sustainability Gina Bell recognized Jessica Anderschau, Green Iowa AmeriCorps member in the Office of Sustainability, for receiving the Governor's Volunteer Award.

2. Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Chair Award Recognition: Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce's President and CEO Molly Grover recognized Airport Director Todd Dalsing for receiving the Chamber Chair Award.

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Dubuque County Fair Week (July 22 - 27, 2025) was accepted by John Bries and Kevin Kotz on behalf of the Dubuque County Fair Association.

CONSENT ITEMS

Roussell requested Item No. 9 be held for separate discussion. Wethal requested Item No. 5 be held for separate discussion. Motion by Resnick to receive and file the documents, adopt the resolutions, and dispose of as indicated, except for Item Nos. 5 and 9. Seconded by Farber. Motion carried 7-0.

1. Minutes and Reports Submitted: City Council Proceedings of June 16, 2025; Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission of May 27, 2025; Civil Service Commission of January 17, February 12, March 3, March 12, March 20, and April 9, 2025; Community Development Advisory Commission of May 21, 2025; Historic Preservation Commission of May 15, 2025; Library Board of Trustees Update from May 22, 2025; Park and Recreation Commission of May 21, 2025; Resilient Community Advisory Commission of April 23, 2025; Zoning Advisory Commission of June 4, 2025; Zoning Board of Adjustment from May 22, 2025; Proof of Publication for City Council Proceedings of June 2, 2025. Upon motion the documents were received and filed.

2. Notice of Claims and Suits: Cathleen Avenarius for vehicle damage; Craig Demoss for property damage; Samantha Giglio for vehicle damage; Edward and Carol Marinko for property damage. Upon motion the documents were received, filed, and referred to the City Attorney.

3. Approval of City Expenditures: Upon motion the documents were received and filed, and Resolution No. 231-25 Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer to make certain

payments of bills that must be paid and approved for payment in accordance with City procedures was adopted.

4. Acceptance of the Southgate Drive Sanitary Project: Upon motion the documents were received and filed, and Resolution No. 232-25 Accepting The Southgate Drive Sanitary Improvements Project And Authorizing Final Payment To The Contractor was adopted.

5. Contracted Services Agreements for Fiscal Year 2026: Wethal announced her intent to abstain from voting on Greater Dubuque Development Corporation's (GDDC) Contracted Service Agreement due to her father serving as President and CEO of GDDC. Motion by Jones to receive and file the documents and approve all Contracted Services Agreements except GDDC's. Seconded by Farber. Motion carried 7-0. Motion by Jones to receive and file the documents and approve GDDC's Contracted Service Agreement. Seconded by Farber. Motion carried 6-0 with abstention from Wethal.

6. Contracted Services Agreements Fiscal Year 2026 for Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque Programs: Upon motion the documents were received, filed, and approved.

7. Iowa Department of Transportation PCC Pavement Grade Project Notification Correspondence from Jesse Tibodeau, Assistant District Engineer with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) notifying the City Council of PCC Pavement grade on US-20 over the Middle Branch Catfish Creek and Chicago, Central and Pacific Railroad. Upon motion the documents were received and filed.

8. 2025 Repair and Maintenance of the Iowa Street Parking Garage Amended Resolution 220-25, Establish New Bid Letting Date: Upon motion the documents were received and filed, and Resolution No. 233-25 Amending Resolution No. 220-25: 2025 Repair And Maintenance Of The Iowa Street Parking Garage - Preliminary Approval Of Plans, Specifications, Form Of Contract, And Estimated Cost; Setting Date Of Public Hearing On Plans, Specifications, Form Of Contract, And Estimated Cost; And Ordering The Advertisement For Bids was adopted.

9. Signed Contract(s): Roussell announced her intent to abstain voting on the Dubuque Trees Forever Memorandum of Agreement due to her serving on the Dubuque Trees Forever board. Motion by Jones to receive and file the documents and approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Cornerstone Government Affairs, Inc. Seconded by Wethal. Motion carried 7-0. Motion by Jones to receive and file the documents and approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Dubuque Trees Forever. Seconded by Sprank. Motion carried 6-0 with abstention from Roussell.

10. Adoption of Supplement Number 2025 S-16 to the City of Dubuque Code of Ordinances: Upon motion the documents were received and filed, and Resolution No. 234-25 Adopting Supplement No. 2025 S-16 To The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Dubuque, Iowa was adopted.

11. Approval of Retail Tobacco, Tobacco Products, Alternative Nicotine Products, Vapor Products, and Device Permit Applications: Upon motion the documents were received and filed, and Resolution No. 235-25 was adopted.

ITEMS SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Sprank to receive and file the documents, adopt the resolution, and set the public hearing for July 21, 2025. Seconded by Wethal. Motion carried 7-0.

1. 2025 Maintenance Dredging Project - Initiate Public Improvement Bidding Process: Upon motion the documents were received and filed and Resolution No. 236-25 2025 Maintenance Dredging Project: Preliminary Approval Of Plans, Specifications, Form Of Contract, And Estimated Cost;

Setting Date Of Public Hearing On Plans, Specifications, Form Of Contract, And Estimated Cost; And Ordering The Advertisement For Bids was adopted setting a public hearing for a meeting to commence at 6:30 p.m. on July 21, 2025 in the Historic Federal Building.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

Applications were reviewed for the following Boards and Commissions. Applicants were invited to address the City Council regarding their desire to serve on the following Boards/Commissions.

1. Transit Advisory Board: One, 3-Year term through July 30, 2028 (Vacant term of Gerdemann). Applicant: Alex Kruse, 3578 Keymont Dr.

Appointments were made to the following boards/commissions.

1. Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission: One, 3-Year term through June 30, 2028. (Expiring Business Professional - lives or works in the cultural and entertainment district term of Hefel). Applicants: Nick Halder, 876 S. Grandview Ave.; Aaron Hefel, 515 1/2 West 8th St.; Sarah Ndagire, 1536 Kehl Ct. Upon roll call vote, Halder was appointed to the term. Hefel received 2 votes (Wethal and Cavanagh), and Halder received the remaining votes.

2. Historic Preservation Commission: One, 3-Year term through July 1, 2028 (Expiring Jackson Park District term of Esser). Applicant: Janice Esser, 1072 Locust St. Motion by Jones to appoint Esser to the term. Seconded by Sprank. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Transit Advisory Board: One, 3-Year term through July 30, 2027 (Vacant term of Esser). Applicant: Gary Wernimont, 736 University Ave. Wernimont was not appointed because no motion was made.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Hold a Public Hearing for Adopting the Public Housing Authority (PHA) Annual Plan: Motion by Resnick to receive and file the documents and adopt Resolution No. 237-25 Authorizing The Mayor To Execute The Certification By State Or Local Office Of Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan's Consistency With The Consolidated Plan And Approval Of The PHA Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Plan. Seconded by Wethal. In response to questions, Assistant City Manager and Interim Housing Director Cori Burbach summarized the purpose of the plan. While the plan is presented to the City Council through the annual budget process, its budget shifts each federal fiscal year. The budget can be verified at a later date. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Petition to Vacate Certain Street and Alley Right of Way Easements in Julien Addition, in the City of Dubuque, Iowa For Vacating Petition from Elaine Reiss and Doug Blong: Motion by Sprank to receive and file the documents and adopt Resolution No. 238-25 Vacating Certain Street And Alley Easements In Julien Addition, City Of Dubuque, Iowa and No. 239-25 Disposing Of City Interest In Certain Street And Alley Easements In Julien Addition, City Of Dubuque, Iowa. Seconded by Wethal. After a point of order was made by Jones on whether the motion included adopting both resolutions, Cavanagh confirmed the motion covered both. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Rebid 2025 Repair and Maintenance of the Iowa Street Parking Garage Public Hearing: Motion by Wethal to receive and file the documents and adopt Resolution No. 240-25 Approval Of Plans, Specifications, Form Of Contract, And Estimated Cost For The 2025 Repair And Maintenance Of The Iowa Street Parking Garage. Seconded by Jones. Project Manager Jim Bousley summarized the

project timeline. City Council Members thanked city staff for rebidding the project quickly. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

Paul Uzel, 61 N. Algona, spoke about his desire for the City Council to take action in support of Dubuque's immigrant community.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Parks and Recreation Title 10 Chapter 5 Ordinance Amendment Recommendation: 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 Roussell. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jones for final consideration and passage of Ordinance No. 28-25 Amending City Of Dubuque Code Of Ordinances Title 10 Public Ways And Property, Chapter 5 Parks And Recreation, Article B. Use Regulations, Section 13 Climbing On Fences, Roofs, Section 22 Open Season And Hours Generally, And Article C Section 1 Specific Park Areas, Open Spaces, And Trails Described. Seconded by Roussell. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Recommendation to Update Human Rights Ordinance, Title 8: 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. 29-25 Amending City Of Dubuque Code Of Ordinances Title 8 Equity And Human Rights By Repealing Title 8 Equity And Human Rights And Adopting In Lieu Thereof A New Title 8 Human Rights. Seconded by Wethal. Motion carried 5-2 with Jones and Sprank voting nay.

3. Proceedings to Complete Action on the Issuance of \$761,000 Sewer Revenue Capital Loan Notes (State Revolving Loan Fund Program) Green Alley Sponsorship Project: Motion by Farber to receive and file the documents and adopt Resolution No. 241-25 Authorizing and approving a Loan and Disbursement Agreement, providing for the issuance and securing the payment of \$761,000 Storm Water Revenue Bonds, Series 2025 and authorizing the related reduction of the interest rate on the Stormwater Management Utility Revenue Capital Loan Note No. R-1, Series 2019, dated April 12, 2019. Seconded by Resnick. Motion carried 7-0.

4. FY 2026 Arts & Culture Operating Support Grant Funding Recommendation: Motion by Resnick to receive and file the documents and approve the Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission's funding recommendations for the FY2026 Arts & Culture Operating Support grant applicants. Seconded by Jones. City Council Members highlighted the importance of citizen input on these applications by the commission and how the grants exemplify the benefits of government partnership. Motion carried 7-0.

5. FY 2026 Arts & Culture Special Projects Grant Funding Recommendation: Motion by Roussell to receive and file the documents and approve the Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission's funding recommendations for the FY2026 Arts & Culture Special Projects grant applicants. Seconded by Sprank. Motion carried 7-0.

6. 2025 – 2026 AmeriCorps Funding Awarded: Motion by Sprank to receive and file the documents on the funding for the City of Dubuque AmeriCorps program being approved for the third year of Dubuque's competitive grant cycle (September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026). Seconded by Farber.

Community Impact Director Antonio Mouzon discussed the consequences of losing AmeriCorps funding this program year, including the cancellation of this summer's teen empowerment program. Mouzon highlighted the creation of the Serve Dubuque initiative, which aims to support a limited number of teenagers over the summer. Mouzon noted that other cities have faced the same situation of their AmeriCorps funding being cut for the current program year but reinstated for the upcoming year. City Council Members expressed enthusiasm that funding will be reinstated. Motion carried 7-0.

7. Funding Agreement between City of Dubuque and Dubuque Marina, Inc. - 2024 Boating Infrastructure Tier 1 Grant Dredge Dubuque Marina: Motion by Jones to receive and file the documents and adopt Resolution No. 242-25 Approving The Funding Agreement Between The City Of Dubuque And Dubuque Marina, Inc. For The 2024 Boating Infrastructure Tier 1 Grant Agreement For Maintenance Dredging At Dubuque Marina. Seconded by Wethal. Assistant City Engineer Bob Schiesl stated that the City and the Marina work together to determine dredging locations, considering their target depths and available funding. The City holds a dredging permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, which mandates that dredged materials be deposited at the 16th St. Bridge. Schiesl confirmed that dredging will occur in the same area as the previous year. City Council Members highlighted the necessity of dredging so recreational boats can access the river. Motion carried 7-0.

8. 2025 Dubuque City Services Guide: Motion by Resnick to receive and file the documents. Seconded by Farber. Public Information Officer Randy Gehl stated that the guide, which has been available for over 15 years and is updated every few years, was recently mailed to all postal addresses within the city limits. The Communications Office's budget covers printing and mailing the publication. City Council Members shared positive feedback and expressed their enthusiasm that council contact information was included. Motion carried 7-0.

9. July Utility Bill Insert: Ways to Get Involved: Motion by Sprank to receive and file the documents. Seconded by Wethal. City Council Members highlighted the variety of ways people can get involved with the City. Motion carried 7-0.

10. Reschedule Greater Dubuque Development Corporation Work Session: Motion by Roussell to receive and file the documents and schedule the work session for July 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Jones. Point of Order by Breitfelder that the recommendation was to reschedule the work session from July 21 to August 18, 2025. Motion amended by Roussel to schedule the work session for August 18, 2025. Seconded by Jones. Motion carried 7-0.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Roussell reported on volunteering at the Presbyterian Hunger Outreach, touring St. Mark Youth Enrichment's new childcare center, attending the groundbreaking for the Habitat for Humanity Pocket Neighborhood, and meeting with HACAP.

Jones reported on attending a Dubuque Racing Association (DRA) board meeting, a Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMATS) work session, a North End Neighborhood Association meeting, and the recent passing of former Iowa State Trooper Dick Bakey.

Farber reported on representing Dubuque in Washington, D.C., on conversations on Artificial Intelligence (AI), participating in an IBM podcast, attending a Sister City Committee meeting, and the upcoming open house for the City's new data center.

Sprank also reported on attending the DRA board meeting, the Mathias Ham House 4th of July event, and attending various neighborhood get-togethers.

Resnick reported on attending the Grand Opera House's production of "Footloose" and the Tri-State Wind Symphony's performance.

Cavanagh also reported on the Mathias Ham House event, along with the air service virtual town hall, the US Conference of Mayors meeting, and the successful 3rd of July fireworks and airshow.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Jones to convene in closed session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss Pending Litigation and Purchase or Sale of Real Estate – Chapter 21.5(1)(c),(j) Code of Iowa. Seconded by Roussell. Mayor Cavanagh stated for the record that the attorney who will consult with City Council on the issues to be discussed in the closed session is Assistant City Attorney Lehman. Motion carried 7-0.

The City Council reconvened in open session at 9:31 p.m. stating that staff had been given proper direction.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cavanagh declared the meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

/s/Adrienne N. Breitfelder, CMC

City Clerk