

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

The Dubuque City Council met in special session at 5:15 p.m. on February 9, 2026, in Room 4 of the Grand River Center, 500 Bell St.

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

**SPECIAL SESSION
Governance Session**

Lyle Sumek of Lyle Sumek Associates, Inc. facilitated a governance session with the City Council. The session covered an overview of the Council-Manager form of government, the development of a code of civility outlining expectations for interactions among council members and with residents, and the establishment of protocols for engaging with residents, communicating with the City Manager, and receiving agendas. The Council recessed for dinner at 6:06 p.m. and reconvened at 6:28 p.m. An additional break was taken from 7:46 p.m. to 7:53 p.m. Sumek requested that the City Council sign the finalized code of civility items to demonstrate their commitment to it; however, it was clarified that the signing was purely ceremonial. In response to questions, Brumwell confirmed that she would review the agreed upon code of civility against the existing Code of Conduct that was adopted in 2021. If amendments were necessary to incorporate any new civility provisions, she would present a revised Code of Conduct for Council adoption via resolution. Brumwell further noted that once adopted by a majority vote, the Code of Conduct would be binding on all Council members, including those who voted against it. Van Milligen explained the process for contacting him and sharing responses with Council. He noted staff could work toward releasing draft agendas to the City Council in stages, with any finalized items available by Wednesday evening. Brumwell clarified that draft or tentative materials remain confidential under Iowa Code Section 22.7.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Roussell to convene in closed session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss Confidential Records – Chapter 21.5(1)(a) Code of Iowa. Seconded by Resnick. 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 City Attorney Brumwell. Motion carried 7-0.

The City Council reconvened in open session at 9:48 p.m. stating that staff had been given proper direction.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cavanagh declared the meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

/s/Adrienne N. Breitfelder, CMC
City Clerk