

March 23, 2020

West Des Moines City Council Proceedings
Monday, March 23, 2020

Mayor Steven K. Gaer opened the special meeting of the City Council of West Des Moines, Iowa, in the Council Chambers of the West Des Moines City Hall on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Council members participating via telephone were: R. Hardman, G. Hudson, M. McKinney, K. Trevillyan, and R. Trimble.

City Clerk Ryan Jacobson stated there is one amendment to the agenda, as staff is now recommending the public hearing be continued to April 20, 2020.

On Item 2. Agenda. It was moved by Trevillyan, second by McKinney to approve the agenda as amended.

Vote 20-103: Hardman, Hudson, McKinney, Trevillyan, Trimble...5 yes
Motion carried.

Mayor Gaer requested an update from staff on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Fire/EMS Chief Craig Leu reported the number of confirmed cases across the country has been increasingly significantly each day. He stated the city opened its emergency operations center this morning, so that it can be ready in case it's needed. He noted EMS call volume is down, due to fewer people out and about within our city and a decrease in elective surgeries. He stated the city's public safety departments have a sufficient supply of gloves, hand cleaner, N95 masks, and face shields. He noted there is a shortage of disinfecting solution, but they can use diluted bleach as a substitute.

Mayor Gaer reported the Metropolitan Advisory Council held a conference call today, where it was shared that Polk County Emergency Management is on top of the situation and is providing a daily update conference call, which will be open to Mayors and Council members.

Chief Leu stated the city is following direction from the Iowa Governor, Iowa Department of Health, and the county health departments.

Mayor Gaer noted there is now a COVID-19 information page on the city's website.

City Manager Tom Hadden stated the city will be offering regular updates to the public via the website and various social media platforms.

The Council members expressed appreciation to the public safety departments for everything they are doing during this pandemic situation. They also expressed support for providing as much information to the public as possible.

March 23, 2020

On Item 3(a) 2020-21 FY Operating and Capital Budget, initiated by the City of West Des Moines (Continued from March 16, 2020)

Chris Hamlett, Budget Analyst, reported the council could approve the \$10.95 levy rate tonight, since that is what was listed in the published notice. Since the Council members have recently expressed a desire for a \$10.99 levy rate, they would need to continue the public hearing to a later date so it could be re-noticed for that higher rate.

Mayor Gaer requested clarification from the Council members on their desired levy rate.

Council member Trimble stated based on the current economic downturn, he believes it would be smart to postpone the public hearing so that a \$10.99 levy rate could be approved.

Council member McKinney noted the economic environment today is very different from what it was the day of the budget workshop in January, when the \$10.95 levy rate was suggested.

It was moved by Trevillyan, second by Hardman to adopt Motion - Continue Public Hearing to April 20, 2020.

Vote 20-104: Hardman, Hudson, McKinney, Trevillyan, Trimble...5 yes
Motion carried.

On Item 4. The Special Meeting Notice was Received and Filed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan T. Jacobson, CMC
City Clerk

ATTEST:

Steven K. Gaer, Mayor