

December 26, 2019

West Des Moines City Council Proceedings
Thursday, December 26, 2019

Mayor Steven K. Gaer opened the special meeting of the City Council of West Des Moines, Iowa, in the Teamwork Room of the West Des Moines City Hall on Thursday, December 26, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Council members participating via telephone were: R. Hardman, J. Mickelson, and R. Trimble.

On Item 2. Agenda. It was moved by Trimble, second by Mickelson to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote 19-632: Hardman, Mickelson, Trimble...3 yes
Motion carried.

On Item 3(a) Bill Lists, initiated by the City of West Des Moines

Mayor Gaer requested additional information regarding the proposed \$20,000 payment to Eat Greater Des Moines.

Tim Stiles, Finance Director, reported the Eat Greater Des Moines payment is one of eight on this bills list that is being paid from a Microsoft escrow account that the company established and funded in coordination with the City for their charitable giving program. The City controls the escrow account so, even though it does not use City operating funds, staff believed it would be most transparent to have the City Council approve payments made from the escrow account.

Council member Sandager arrived at 8:33 a.m. The attendance was re-taken. Council members present were: J. Sandager, with R. Hardman, J. Mickelson, and R. Trimble participating via telephone.

Mayor Gaer expressed concerns that listing these Microsoft escrow account payments in the same list as all the regular City payments could be incorrectly interpreted by the public that these payments are being paid from City funds.

The Mayor and Council held discussion about how to address the concerns and reached a consensus in support of approving the proposed list of payments today, with the record clarifying that the eight payments paid from the Microsoft escrow account are not being paid from City operating funds. Staff was also asked to look into finding a better process for handling these types of payments going forward.

It was moved by Sandager, second by Hardman to adopt Motion - Approval of Bill Lists, with an amendment to clarify that the following eight payments are being paid from Microsoft escrow account funds and are not using City funds:

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- Eat Greater Des Moines (\$20,000.00)
- Edumundson Art Foundation, Inc. (\$7,500.00)
- FRC Team 4646 ASAP (\$5,000.00)
- Healthy Birth Day, Inc. (\$5,000.00)
- Project Iowa (\$18,000.00)
- Science Center of Iowa (\$15,000.00)
- St. Vincent De Paul (\$10,000.00)
- Wildwood Hills Ranch of Iowa (\$10,000.00)

Vote 19-633: Hardman, Mickelson, Sandager, Trimble...4 yes
Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan T. Jacobson, CMC
City Clerk

ATTEST:

Steven K. Gaer, Mayor