

March 26, 2024

West Des Moines City Council Proceedings  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Mayor Russ Trimble opened the special meeting of the City Council of West Des Moines, Iowa, in the Council Chambers of West Des Moines City Hall on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were: G. Hudson, D. Loots, and M. McKinney.

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

Vote 24-112: Hudson, Loots, McKinney...3 yes  
Motion carried.

On Item 3(a) Mayor Trimble indicated this was the time and place for a public hearing to consider FY 2024-2025 Proposed Property Tax Rate, initiated by the City of West Des Moines. He asked for the date the notice was published and the City Clerk indicated the notice was published on March 15, 2024 in the Des Moines Register. Mayor Trimble asked if any written comments had been received. The City Clerk stated none had been received.

Mayor Trimble asked if there were any public comments.

Janis Robinson, 1345 South 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, expressed concerns about how the total amount she pays in property taxes has increased in recent years.

M.J. Hoag, 413 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, spoke in opposition to a decrease in the City's property tax levy rate. He noted that only seven percent of respondents to the most recent citizen survey indicated they were dissatisfied with the overall value received for their tax dollars. He stated that a growing city equates to growing demands on the City's resources, and he expressed concerns that a property tax decrease could result in staff burnout and a decrease in the quality of City services.

Srijan Karim, 1225 28<sup>th</sup> Street, stated he chose to live in West Des Moines because of the high quality of City services, and he is concerned that a decrease in the property tax levy rate would not be sustainable in the run. He encouraged the Council, if they intend to decrease the property tax levy rate, to look into sustainable ways to increase other revenues that could help offset any decreases in property tax revenue. He noted the costs of goods and services are increasing due to inflation, and he expressed concerns that a property tax decrease could result in a decrease in the quality of City services.

Mayor Trimble asked if there were any additional public comments; hearing none he declared the public hearing closed.

The Mayor and Council expressed appreciation to the citizens that shared comments during tonight's public hearing, and they each expressed a desire to find the appropriate balance between providing property tax relief and continuing to provide high quality City services.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ryan T. Jacobson, CMC  
City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Russ Trimble, Mayor