The Dubuque City Council met in special session at 6:30 p.m. on February 3, 2022, 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; City Manager Van Milligen, City Attorney Brumwell (attended via phone).

Vacancy: Ward 4

Mayor Cavanagh read the call and stated this is a special session of the City Council called for the purpose of setting the public hearing to establish the Maximum Property Tax Dollars for Fiscal Year 2023.

ITEMS SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING

1. Set Public Hearing for Resolution Establishing Maximum Property Tax Dollars for Fiscal Year 2023: Motion by Jones to receive and file the documents, adopt the resolution, set the public hearing for February 16, 2022, and listen to the presentations. Seconded by Sprank. City Assessor Troy Patzner and City Manager Mike Van Milligen respectively made presentations and responded to questions from the City Council. City Council discussed the challenges of establishing the maximum property tax rate prior to the budget hearing process, per statutory requirements, and deliberated over preferences for a property tax rate increase. City Council discussed the possibility of setting a higher property tax rate increase than the City Manager’s recommendation, since State Code permits them to decrease the rate during the budget hearing process. Responding to a question from the City Council, Director of Finance and Budget Jenny Larson stated that a property tax rate increase of 2% or greater from Fiscal Year 2022 to Fiscal Year 2023 requires a unanimous vote per State Code, while any increase less than 2% requires a simple majority vote. Ms. Larson confirmed that any changes in the proposed property tax rate would change the public notice. Responding to a question, City Attorney Brumwell confirmed that the City Council must first vote on the maximum property tax rate before adopting the resolution, since the resolution directs city staff to publish the public notice, which will specify the maximum property tax rate. Motion by Sprank to set the maximum property tax rate to $11.7169 per thousand dollars assessed value. Responding to a question from the City Council on what a 2% increase from Fiscal Year 2022 to Fiscal Year 2023 would equate to, Ms. Larson confirmed that a 2% increase results in a property tax rate of $9.8088147 per thousand dollars assessed value. Council Member Sprank amended the motion to set the maximum property tax rate at $9.8088147 per thousand dollars assessed value. Seconded by Farber. City Council discussed how the established property tax rate may impact public perception of a potential referendum on the Five Flags Civic Center. City Attorney Brumwell
confirmed that the vote on the motion must be unanimous because the proposed rate increase is a 2% increase. Motion failed 5-1 with Resnick voting nay.

Motion by Sprank to set the maximum property tax dollars rate at $9.78477 per thousand dollars assessed value. Seconded by Farber. Motion carried 5-1 with Resnick voting nay.

City Council then returned to the previous motion by Jones and seconded by Sprank to receive and file the documents, adopt Resolution No. 34-22 Setting a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2023 Maximum Property Tax Dollars for the affected tax levy total, and setting the public hearing for February 16, 2022. Motion carried 6-0.

There being no further business, Mayor Cavanagh declared the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

/s/Adrienne N. Breitfelder
City Clerk

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