City Council Meeting Time and Public Input Changes

The City Council recently voted to make two changes to the format of their regular meetings, held on the first and third Monday of each month.

**Meeting Start Time**
Effective Aug. 15, 2016, all regular City Council meetings will begin at 6 p.m. Previously, meetings started at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the Historic Federal Building at 350 W. Sixth St. and are broadcast live on CityChannel Dubuque, the local government television station. Meeting agendas are available in the City Clerk’s Office and posted to www.cityofdubuque.org/agendas at 9 a.m. on the Friday before each meeting. If you are interested in receiving meeting agendas and minutes notifications through email or text, please subscribe by visiting www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme.

**Public Input**
The City Council also recently moved the public input portion of their meeting agendas from the end of each meeting to the middle of the meetings, after the public hearings and before action items. During the public input portion of the meeting, anyone in the Council Chambers may address the City Council on the action items on the agenda or on matters under the control of the City Council. At this point in the meeting, residents and stakeholders are invited to approach the podium and state their name and address before proceeding with their comments. Individual remarks are limited to five minutes, and the overall public input period is limited to 30 minutes. Under the Iowa Open Meetings Law, the City Council can take no formal action on comments given during public input which do not relate to action items on the agenda.

For more information on City Council meetings and agendas, contact the City Clerk’s Office at 563-589-4100 or visit www.cityofdubuque.org/councilmeetings.

CityChannel Dubuque Changes

CityChannel Dubuque, Dubuque’s local government television channel, will move to a new digital channel location, channel 117.2, on Aug. 30, 2016. Cable subscribers who have a Mediacom cable box will continue to find it on channel 8. Only cable subscribers who do not use a Mediacom box will need to tune to 117.2.

The City’s Cable TV Division also operates a second channel, CityChannel Graphics, which airs graphic announcements around the clock accompanied by audio from the NOAA weather radio station serving Dubuque. This channel can be found on channel 80 (with a Mediacom cable box) or channel 117.3 (with no cable box). Mediacom is making other digital channel changes on Aug. 30 as well, so cable viewers who don’t have a cable box should auto program their televisions that day to make sure they are receiving all the channels. Consult the television’s owner manual to find out how.

For more information on CityChannel Dubuque, including archived programs and a live stream of programming for residents and stakeholders who do not subscribe to Mediacom, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/cabletv.
The Jule Offers Monthly Unlimited Ride Swipe Cards

The Jule passengers now have the option to purchase a monthly unlimited ride swipe card. The Jule has replaced outdated paper bus passes with more permanent, reloadable swipe cards for monthly pass customers.

Monthly passes will be activated when payment for the month is received. There is no penalty for not purchasing service during any month and cards will be reactivated the next time monthly service is purchased.

Passes may be purchased by visiting the Intermodal Transportation Center located at 950 Elm St. between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or at City Hall during regular business hours. Costs for the swipe cards are Monthly Full-Fare: $45/month and Monthly Half-Fare: $22.50/month.

For more information about the new swipe card bus passes, visit www.juletransit.org or call 563-589-4196.

Accessibility Rehabilitation Program Extended to Homeowners

The Housing & Community Development Department offers an Accessibility Rehabilitation Program which was originally for renters, but has been expanded to owner-occupied residences in an effort to help homeowners stay in their homes as long as possible. The program offers a three-year forgivable loan up to $5,000 to income-qualified homeowners to make ADA/accessibility upgrades to a property for physical accessibility or such improvements in order to make mobility safer. For more information, contact the Housing & Community Development Department at 563-690-6094.

DUBUQUE 2016: An Enterprising City

Mayor Roy D. Buol’s 10th Annual State of the City Address

Thursday, September 8 - 7 p.m.
City Council Chambers
Historic Federal Building
350 W. Sixth Street

If you are unable to attend, the address will be aired live on CityChannel Dubuque and streamed at www.cityofdubuque.org/videos

New Property Maintenance Code

The 2015 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), along with local amendments adopted by the Dubuque City Council, went into effect on July 1, 2016. This code, along with local amendments, replaces the housing regulations previously located in Title 6, Chapter 6 of the City Code.

The code provides a standard for property maintenance and establishes minimum requirements for light, ventilation, and occupancy limitations; plumbing facilities and fixture requirements; mechanical and electrical requirements; and fire safety requirements in existing structures and properties. The differences expected to be most significant between the old housing code and the new property maintenance code include: repairs must be executed in a workmanlike manner; equipment and appliances must be properly installed and maintained in a safe working condition and in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, and required addition of smoke alarms inside each sleeping room.

The IPMC and local amendments were adopted following an extensive review with input from stakeholders including the Dubuque Area Landlord Association, several neighborhood associations, the Housing Commission, Community Development Advisory Commission, and Housing Code Board of Appeals. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/PMC.

Successful Rental Property Management Program

The City of Dubuque is sponsoring an educational program for property owners and managers on all aspects of managing rental property. According to the City Code of Ordinances, all Dubuque rental property owners or their property managers must attend this program. Licensed real estate professionals or those who have already completed this program are exempt. The next sessions are scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22, from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at NICC Town Clock Center, 680 Main St. Pre-registration is appreciated. Register online at www.nicc.edu/solutions and enter “Successful Rental Property Management” in the search box or call Northeast Iowa Community College at 563-557-8271, ext. 380. Additional information about the program, registration details, and training manual are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/srpm.

Carnegie-Stout Public Library Sets New Hours

Carnegie-Stout Library will now remain open on Sundays year round. New library hours are:
Monday - Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Thursdays: Noon - 8 p.m.
Friday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.

For more information on library services and programs, visit www.dubuque.lib.ia.us.
The Bee Branch Watershed has experienced six Presidential Disaster Declarations since 1999. National studies have revealed that the frequency and intensity of rainstorms is continuing to steadily increase. In mid-July, storms dropped heavy rain on Dubuque three times in one week. They resulted in flash flooding in several problem areas of the Bee Branch Watershed including Kaufmann Ave., Central Ave., E 22nd St., and W. Locust St. The rains came shortly before the five-year anniversary of the 2011 flood when more than 14 inches of rain fell in just 12 hours.

The brief, intense rainfalls experienced in July were clear reminders of the importance of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project. The subsequent flash flooding on streets in the downtown area were also a reminder that, while progress is being made and the work completed so far is making a difference, the 20-year project is not yet complete. Fire Chief Rick Steines reported a significant sign of progress at the Aug. 1 City Council meeting when he advised that despite these rain storms, the Fire Department received no calls to pump water from basements.

The Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project consists of several types of infrastructure improvements that will reduce the volume of stormwater, slow the rate of stormwater through the upper watershed, and move stormwater safely through the flood-prone area without flooding adjacent properties.

Multiple phases of the flood mitigation project have been completed including the Carter Rd. Detention Basin, W. 32nd St. Detention Basin, Lower Bee Branch Creek, and 16th St. Detention Basin. In addition, over 60 alleys have been converted into permeable pavement. Dubuque is better prepared for flooding than it was five years ago and there are incremental benefits as each phase of the Bee Branch project is completed. However, it is important to remember that several improvements still need to be made before the full flood mitigation benefits of the project are realized.

The Upper Bee Branch Creek, which is currently under construction, is designed to move stormwater through Dubuque’s North End Neighborhood to the Lower Bee Branch and ultimately to the Mississippi River. The recent rain events provided an example of how stormwater will slowly fill the creek channel and then slowly drain out. When the creek is completed and additional culverts connecting the Upper Bee Branch to the Lower Bee Branch are installed through the railroad right-of-way, it will fill and drain in a similar way, but much more efficiently.

It is important to understand that the Bee Branch Creek is only one phase of the multi-phased project. While providing more storage volume for stormwater than previously existed, the completion of the creek will not mitigate all flooding. It is expected that some flash flooding will continue to occur in problem areas until improvements to multiple storm sewers are completed.

Over the next five years, the City will expand the capacity of the storm sewers along 17th Street from Elm to W Locust, along 22nd Street from Elm to Kane, and throughout the North End Neighborhood. However, the storm sewer improvements would not provide benefits unless the downstream Upper Bee Branch Creek provided a place for the stormwater to go. That is why these improvements are being made from “downstream to upstream,” working from the 16th St. Detention Basin and Lower Bee Branch to the Upper Bee Branch and then storm sewer improvements.

Exciting progress is being made on this huge infrastructure project to protect homes and businesses from flash flooding. The Upper Bee Branch Creek phase of the project is scheduled to be functional this fall with landscaping and other details to be completed in the spring. For more information about the Bee Branch Project, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch.

Help ‘Imagine Dubuque!’

A city’s Comprehensive Plan is a roadmap for the community’s future. It helps guide the community’s physical, social, and economic development. Cities develop plans for the same reason people plan a home improvement project or a household budget. It creates efficient and informed steps toward achieving community goals.

The 14-month process to develop a new Comprehensive Plan for Dubuque is just beginning. It is important that the plan reflect the goals of the community, so public participation is essential to the process. Keep an eye out for opportunities offered to participate and provide input both in person and online. Please help “Imagine Dubuque” and be a part of the process to help shape Dubuque’s future.

City Seeking Volunteers for Resilient Community Advisory Commission

In June 2016, the City Council approved transitioning the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission to a new, Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC). Earlier this year, over 200 residents defined what resiliency would look like in Dubuque: “The ability of individuals and systems to prevent, prepare for, and recover from adverse vulnerabilities while adapting to long-term changes.”

The City is now accepting applications for this new nine-member commission as well as vacancies on a variety of other boards and commissions. You can apply online or view the complete list of opportunities at www.cityofdubuque.org/boards. For additional information, contact the City Clerk’s Office at 563-589-4100.
New Faces & Retirements

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new employees:

- Danielle Abitz - Parking
- Trevor Blum - Airport
- Brianna Bronell - Airport
- Crystal Campbell - Emergency Communications
- Benjamin Dalsing - Emergency Communications
- Sherry Driscoll - Transit
- Quinten Dukes - Transit
- Jillian Funk - Engineering
- Emily Hagerty - Emergency Communications
- Nathan Kratz - Airport
- Shirley Lanners - Library
- Deborah Meyer - Transit
- Angel Miranda - Transit
- Roberto Miranda - Transit
- Connie Mueller - Finance
- Brian Noonan - Water & Resource Recovery Center
- Hannah Petersen - Library
- Scott Schlichte - Library
- Russell Stecklein - Transit
- Michelle Wessels - Library

The City of Dubuque welcomes these new board or commission members:

- Robert Armstrong - Library Board of Trustees
- Nicholas Bratcher - Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission
- Wesley Heimke - Housing Commission
- Richard Kirkendall - Park & Recreation Advisory Commission
- Christina Monk - Library Board of Trustees
- David Schmitz - Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission
- Leslie Terry - Historic Preservation Commission
- Mary Thomas-Armstrong - Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission

Congratulations to the employees who recently retired from the City of Dubuque:

- John Callahan - Emergency Communications
- Thomas Firzlaff - Public Works
- John Gillen - Public Works
- Charlie Klein - Leisure Services
- Robert Lange - Fire
- Julie Mueller - Fire
- Robert Papenthien - Police
- Randy Root - Fire
- Forrest Trausch - Police

Contact Information

The City of Dubuque welcomes comments and suggestions about your city government or news appearing in this newsletter. Please contact:

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