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NEWS RELEASE

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City Council Adopts Budget for FY2018

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The Dubuque City Council held a final public hearing on Tuesday, March 7, on the operating and capital budgets for the City’s 2018 fiscal year, which runs July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018. Following public input and discussion of the amended budget recommendation at the hearing, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt.

The City’s total budget for FY2018 is \$169,824,039, an 8.28 percent reduction from FY2017. The operating budget (\$129,366,969) is 0.06 percent from FY2017 while the capital budget (\$40,268,319) represents a 27.48 percent reduction from FY2017.

The adopted property tax rate for the City portion of property taxes is \$10.89 per thousand dollars assessed value, a 2.47 percent reduction from FY2017. In terms of the impact on property owners in each of the four property classes, the \$10.89 rate represents no change for residential properties, a 2.47 percent reduction for commercial properties (or \$83.02 less for the average commercial property), 2.47 percent reduction for industrial properties (or \$124.43 less for the average industrial property), and a 6.71 percent reduction for multi-residential properties (or \$144.91 less for the average multi-residential property).

When compared to the FY2017 rates of Iowa’s 11 largest cities, Dubuque’s FY2018 property tax rate of \$10.89 is the second lowest. The average of those 11 cities (\$15.31) is 41 percent higher than Dubuque and the highest (Council Bluffs, \$17.75) is 63 percent higher.

The adopted budget includes new measures to expedite the City’s debt-reduction plan. Previously, the City was scheduled to continue reducing debt and be at 79 percent of its statutory debt limit in FY2018 and continue that trend and reach 66 percent in FY2025. Instead, under the new budget, the City will be at 64 percent of its statutory debt limit in FY2018 and be down to just 24 percent in FY2027.

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The FY2018 budget includes the following fee adjustments for City services, effective July 1, 2017: a three percent increase to the sanitary sewer fee, a 2.3 percent increase to the solid waste collection fee, a 6.75 percent increase to the stormwater fee, and a three percent increase to the water fee.

The new budget also includes some staffing changes with the net result of the City's staffing level being reduced by 2.87 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in FY2018 to a total of 703.92 FTE.

The March 7 public hearing was the end of the annual budget process that began with community engagement activities in spring 2016 and concluded with a series of six public meetings in February 2017 to accept public input and review City department/division budget details.

Complete details on the budget are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/FY2018budget. For more information, contact Budget Director Jennifer Larson at 563-589-4110 or jl Larson@cityofdubuque.org.

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