

**CITY OF DUBUQUE, IOWA
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL SESSION**

The Dubuque City Council met in special session at 6:00 p.m. on June 25, 2018 in the Historic Federal Building, 350 W. 6th Street

Present: Mayor Buol; Council Members Del Toro, Jones, Larson, Rios, Shaw; City Manager Van Milligen, City Attorney Brumwell

Absent: Council Member Resnick

Mayor Buol read the call and stated this is a special session of the City Council called for the purpose of conducting a work session on the following topics.

WORK SESSIONS

**Workforce Solutions
and
Enhanced Broadband Capacity, Access and Equity in Dubuque**

1. Workforce Solutions: Kristin Dietzel, Vice President of Workforce Solutions for Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, 900 Jackson Street conducted a work session the work session. Topic included:

- Workforce landscape: population and labor data and five-year trends
- Dubuque Works Community Marketing: goals and targets
- Economic Overview 2017-2027: Trends in working age population, jobs, labor force
- Data-Driven Solutions: People, jobs & wages, employers, programs
- Opportunity Dubuque: Definition, current certifications
- Outcomes: Graduation and employment rates, race/ethnicity, gender
- Process Pathways: traditional, Second Chance, HSED/re-engage
- Case stories
- Student outreach and offerings to employers
- Employer How-To Guide College Employer Connection
- Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services partnerships
- AccessDubuqueJobs.com: community workforce resource
- Investor Spotlight: Stonehill Franciscan Services and Medline Industries, John Deere
- Newcomer Services: engagement and retention tools
- Community Tours
- Distinctively Dubuque participation
- Newcomer Focus Group

Ms. Dietzel responded to questions from the City Council regarding barriers to participation such as lack of childcare and not being familiar with the program; marketing solutions such as grants, apprenticeships, course schedules; the focus on closing the skills gaps; and opportunities for navigating the housing market for students and newcomers. Ms. Dietzel stated that many people are looking for pet-friendly housing and walkable, urban areas with amenities.

The work session ended at 6:50 p.m.

2. Enhanced Broadband Capacity, Access and Equity in Dubuque: David Lyons, Sustainable Innovation Consultant for Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, 900 Jackson Street; and Chris Kohlmann, Information Services Manager for the City of Dubuque conducted the work session. Topics included:

- 2015 City Council goal setting
 - Initial analysis = middle path
 - Key focus: capacity, access, equity
- Early signs of success
 - Doubled conduit
 - Quadrupled fiber
 - Increase in providers from 3 in 2015 to 8 in 2018
- Challenges with fiber-to-home, demographics gaps and control
- 2005 feasibility study and referendum
- 2005 Municipal Communications Utility Feasibility Study
 - Consultants hired, contract, residents surveyed
 - Fiber-to-the-Premise Models
 - Wireless Model
- Net Neutrality Defined
- Campaign for Dubuque Municipal Internet
 - Citizen Petition
 - Christine Darr presented the Campaign's supporting viewpoint while addressing issues caused by large company mergers, a change in internet trends, inequitable benefit to for-profit companies; and the need for a new feasibility study and constituent input.
- Challenge Infrastructures: physical human, technological, financial, governmental
- Cost estimates for new feasibility study

Ms. Kohlmann and Mr. Lyons responded to questions from the City Council regarding the complexity of a connecting a municipal service to the internet through many providers, that a municipal service would be improved but not totally neutral; and that local control can still be influenced by state and federal pre-emptions. Keith Brimeyer of Comelec Services addressed issues caused by Dubuque's topography, lot density, return-on-investment timeline, and provided information on the status of Comelec's progress in laying fiber within the City.

There being no further business, upon motion the City Council adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

/s/Kevin S. Firnstahl, CMC
City Clerk

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