Dubuque operates under the council-manager form of local government, which combines the political leadership of elected officials in the form of a city council, with the managerial experience of an appointed local government manager, the city manager (Mike Van Milligen, ctymgr@cityofdubuque.org, 563.589.4110.) The council-manager form of government was adopted by citizen referendum in 1920.

Mayor Brad Cavanagh and the Dubuque City Council members are the leaders and policy makers elected to represent the community and to concentrate on policy issues that are responsive to citizens’ needs and wishes. The city manager is appointed by the city council to carry out policy. The city council also appoints the city attorney (Crenna Brumwell, cbrumwel@cityofdubuque.org, 563.589.4113) and city clerk (Adrienne Breitfelder, abreitfe@cityofdubuque.org, 563.589.4120.)

The council is the legislative body; its members are the community’s decision makers. Power is centralized in the elected council, which approves the budget and determines the city portion of the tax rate, for example. The council also focuses on the community’s goals, major projects, and such long-term considerations as community growth, land use development, capital improvement plans, capital financing, and strategic planning. The council hires a professional manager to carry out the administrative responsibilities and supervises the manager’s performance.

The council-manager form of government
The Dubuque City Council consists of seven elected representatives: a mayor and two council members elected at large, and one council member elected from each of Dubuque’s four wards. The mayor and other council members serve four-year staggered terms.

City council positions are considered part-time positions. The mayor is a member of the city council and may vote on all matters before the council. Additional information, including city council goals and priorities, biographies, and a city ward map, is available at www.cityofdubuque.org/citycouncil.

The Dubuque City Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month in the Council Chambers on the second floor of the Historic Federal Building at 350 West Sixth Street. The meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are broadcast live on CityChannel Dubuque, the local government access channel (Mediacom cable channel 8 or digital 117.2). Meetings are also streamed live and archived on the City website at www.cityofdubuque.org/media. Agendas and minutes from city council meetings are available from the city clerk and on the City website at www.cityofdubuque.org/agendas. Sign up to receive the agendas via email at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme.

City council agenda items are due in the city clerk’s office in City Hall by noon on the Wednesday preceding the council meeting. Copies of the agenda are available after 9:00 a.m. on the Friday preceding the meeting at www.cityofdubuque.org/agendas and in the City Clerk’s office. For more information on city council meetings, call the city clerk’s office at 563.589.4100.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

In accordance with the Iowa Public Meetings Law, the City of Dubuque posts public notices of all city council and City board and commission meetings at least 24 hours in advance of each meeting at City Hall. The City’s legal notices and notices of public hearing are published in the Legal Notices section of the Telegraph Herald in accordance with state and local code. All these meetings are also listed on the City website and promoted on CityChannel Dubuque. Interested residents and stakeholders can also subscribe to be notified of meetings by email or text through the Public Meeting Notices Notify Me category on the City’s website at www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme.

PUBLIC RECORDS & REQUESTS

In addition to the Agendas & Minutes quick link, the City website features a “Public Documents” page at www.cityofdubuque.org/documents which provides access to public documents available in three categories:

City Council Agendas & Proceedings, City Code, and City Ordinances - Use this tool to search city council agendas with related documents (2000 - present) and official proceedings (1908 - present), City ordinances, and the City Code online. These documents are maintained by the city clerk.

Document Center - Access public documents including forms, applications, handouts, brochures, and other material from City departments and divisions.

Archive Center - Access agendas and minutes for all City boards and commissions as well as archived documents from City departments and divisions including newsletters, reports, and other publications. Requests for other documents can be facilitated by the public information office, 563.589.4151 or publicinfo@cityofdubuque.org.
Dubuque’s volunteer boards and commissions provide a valuable link to the community and to the various interests present in the city; assist in the development of policy recommendations to the city council; provide leadership and support to City staff; promote the City and its programs; and provide expertise in specialized areas. To apply, or for more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/boards or call 563.589.4120.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

- Airport Commission
- Airport Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Airport Zoning Commission
- Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission
- Building Code Advisory and Appeals Board
- Cable TV Commission
- City Board of Review
- Civic Center Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Community Development Advisory Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Housing Appeals & Mediation Board
- Housing Commission
- Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee
- Human Rights Commission
- Investment Oversight Commission
- Library Board of Trustees
- Long Range Planning Advisory Commission
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Resilient Community Advisory Commission
- Transit Advisory Board
- Zoning Advisory Commission
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

**KEY:**
- Decision making authority
- Advisory role

---

**Set goals, priorities, budget, policy and ordinances.**

**Manages resources to implement council goals, priorities, policy and ordinance decisions.**

**Implement, monitor and assess the goals, priorities and other decisions shared by council and managed by the city manager.**

---

**Advise City Council, City Manager and city staff; eyes and ears for the City Council.**
Dubuque residents and community stakeholders have numerous options to connect with their city government. They can, of course, contact city council members regarding city policies, city council meeting agenda items, or any other issue related to city government. Individual council members can be contacted directly (information at www.cityofdubuque.org/citycouncil) or as a group through the “Contact Us” link on the City website, www.cityofdubuque.org.

Residents with questions about city policies, services, and programs, are always welcome to visit a city facility or contact the city departments directly. The City website also features a service request module that allows residents to submit requests for a wide variety of city services or provide input and feedback on issues. Access a complete list of service requests at www.cityofdubuque.org/citizensupport or use the MyDBQ Mobile App (details below) for a select list while you’re “on the go!”

**MYDBQ MOBILE APP**

MyDBQ is the City of Dubuque’s official mobile app and is available for free in the App Store or Google Play. Submit requests for service right from your mobile device. More information at www.cityofdubuque.org/MyDBQ.

**QUESTIONS?**

For additional information on accessing information or becoming involved in city government, please contact the City of Dubuque Public Information Office at 563-589-4151 or publicinfo@cityofdubuque.org.