

MINUTES
Special Council Budget Meeting
January 31, 2026
8:00 AM
501 Main St
Keokuk, Iowa

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in a Special Council Budget Meeting on January 31, 2026, at 501 Main Street. Mayor Mark Smidt called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. There were eight council members present, one absent. Todd Marshall, Tyler Walker, Doug Matlick, Devon Dade, Steve Andrews, Matt VanBerkum, Roger Bryant, and Michael Greenwald were present. Kathie Mahoney was absent. Staff in attendance: City Administrator Jim Ferneau, City Clerk Celeste El Anfaoui, Public Works Director Brian Carroll, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Chief of Police Zeth Baum, Fire Chief Gabe Rose, Assistant Police Chief Andy Whitaker, Keokuk Animal Control Officer Tom Crew as well as other city staff.

CITIZENS' REQUEST: Angela Gates, an employee of the Keokuk Public Library, voiced concerns regarding proposed budget cuts and requested the Council reconsider reductions to the Library budget. She also informed the Council of the requirement for \$750 in City funding for Historic Preservation to maintain Certified Local Government (CLG) status for grant eligibility. Broomhall responded that this requirement may be met through in-kind contributions. Dorothy Cackley expressed reservations regarding reductions in public safety staffing. Kirk Brandenburger sought to clarify misinformation regarding SIRC gaming funds and stated that organizations are unable to seek assistance from him at this time.

Budget – Non-General Fund

Motion by Greenwald to accept the non-general fund budgets as presented, second by Matlick. After discussion, Andrews moved to amend the motion to accept the non-general fund budgets excluding the Bobcat capital purchase, second by Walker. All ayes on the amended motion.

Vote on Original Motion as Amended: 7 ayes, 1 nay (Marshall). Motion carried.

Council Compensation

Motion by Bryant to suspend City Council compensation for one to two years, second by Matlick. After discussion, Matlick withdrew his second. Motion died due to lack of second.

Hotel/Motel Funding Amendment

Motion by Walker to amend Section 1 of the budget cuts and approve \$3,000 in Hotel/Motel Fund payments to Keokuk Historic Preservation, Lake Cooper Foundation, Rand Park Pavilion, Fine Arts Council, and Art Center. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Budget Cuts – Section 1

Motion by Matlick, second by Dade, to approve the first section of budget cuts totaling \$141,126.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Marshall, Matlick, Dade, Andrews, VanBerkum, Bryant. Nays: Walker, Greenwald. Motion carried 6–2.

Franchise Fees

Motion by Greenwald to eliminate franchise fee rebates and increase electric and gas franchise fees (Items 3, 4, and 5 on the list), second by Dade. All ayes. Motion carried.

Water Department & Building Fees

Motion by Matlick to request an increased payment from the Water Department and increase building fees (Items 1 and 2 on the list), second by Greenwald. All ayes. Motion carried.

Library Budget Reduction – \$60,000

Motion by Matlick to reduce the Library budget cut to \$60,000. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Library Budget Reduction – \$50,000

Motion by Greenwald to reduce the Library budget cut to \$50,000, second by Bryant. After discussion, VanBerkum moved to table the motion, second by Walker.

Roll Call Vote on Tabling: Ayes: Marshall, Walker, Andrews, Bryant, Greenwald. Nays: Matlick, Dade, VanBerkum. Motion to table carried 5–3.

Mowing Reduction

Motion by Matlick to reduce mowing expenses by \$35,000 (Item 10 on the list), second by Greenwald. All ayes. Motion carried.

Depot Funding

Motion by Greenwald to eliminate funding for the Depot (Item 8 on the list), second by Matlick. **Vote:** 7 ayes, 1 nay (Walker). Motion carried.

Police Department Staffing

Zeth discussed how the proposed cuts would affect his department. Motion by Walker to eliminate two open vacant positions in the Police Department (item 6 on the list), second by Matlick. All ayes. Motion carried.

Police Administrative Staffing

Motion by Matlick, second by Dade, to reduce administrative staff at the Police Department through attrition (Item 22 on the list). All ayes. Motion carried.

Additional Discussion

Ferneau discussed proposed tax legislation. Lee County District 4 Supervisor Garry Seyb discussed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) projects.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at **11:36 a.m.**