

MINUTES
Special Council Budget Meeting
February 12, 2026
5:00 PM
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 5:00 p.m. There were nine council members present, none absent. Todd Marshall, Tyler Walker, Kathie Mahoney, Doug Matlick, Devon Dade, Steve Andrews, Matt VanBerkum, Roger Bryant, and Michael Greenwald were present. 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, Library Director Monica Winkler as well as other city staff.

Ferneau presented path to close the budget deficit.

Attorney Fee's

Motion by Matlick to reduce attorney fees by \$50,000 from general fund, second by Greenwald. 8 Ayes, 1 Nay (Bryant) motion carried.

Reductions in building/zoning, council admin, animal control, public works, and fire dept budgets

Motion made by Matlick to approve additional cuts to Building/Zoning (\$10,000), Mayor/Clerk travel (\$2,000), Animal Control (\$7,000), Public Works travel (\$1,000), and Fire Dept (\$5,000) second by Greenwald. (7) AYES, (2) NAYS (Dade & Andrews). Motion carried. Crew gave overview of the services he provides and informed that he could still operate with that cut.

Airport

Motion made by Matlick to reduce airport budget by \$10,000, second by Walker. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried

Flower purchase at Rand Park

Motion made by VanBerkum, second by Greenwald, to cut flower purchase for Rand Park flower garden. Crystal McGee spoke regarding the flower beds and how this would impact the future of the Rand Park flower garden.

Roll Call Vote: (3) AYES - Marshall, VanBerkum, Greenwald. (6) NAYS - Walker, Mahoney, Matlick, Dade, Andrews, Bryant. Motion failed 3-6.

Reduction in salary increase for non-union employees

Motion made by Matlick, second by Walker to reduce non-union employee's salary increase from 4% to 3%. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Building/Zoning official salary

Motion made by Matlick to reduce the budgeted salary for Building/Zoning Official by \$10,000, second by Greenwald. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Eliminate public works/planning secretary

Motion made by VanBerkum to eliminate the Public Works and Planning Secretary position. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Reclass public works/planning secretary

Motion made by Greenwald to reclass the salary of Public Works/Planning Secretary position, second by Dade. After discussion, Roll Call Vote: (0) AYES, (9) NAYS. Motion failed

Fireworks

Motion made by VanBerkum to eliminate city support for fireworks, second by Walker. (7) AYES, (2) NAYS – Andrews & Bryant. Motion carried.

Further reduction in mowing, airport, and Main Street/Tourism

Motion made by VanBerkum to reduce funding by \$5,000 each for mowing, the Airport, and Main Street/Tourism, second by Dade.

After discussion, a motion to amend original motion made by VanBerkum, confirming \$2500 cut to Tourism and \$2500 cut to Main Street equally, motion to amend died due to lack of second.

Motion made by Dade to amend original motion requesting \$5000 be cut from Tourism and none from Main Street, second by VanBerkum.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment of original motion: (5) AYES - Marshall, Mahoney, Matlick, Dade, and VanBerkum. (4) NAYS - Walker, Andrews, Bryant, Greenwald. Motion to amend carried.

Roll Call Vote on original amended motion: (5) AYES - Marshall, Walker, Matlick, Dade, and VanBerkum. (4) NAYS - Mahoney, Andrews, Bryant, and Greenwald. Amended motion carried.

Keokuk Historic Preservation, Rand Park Pavillion, Fine Arts, and Art Center

Motion made by Walker to fund Keokuk Historic Preservation, Rand Park Pavillion, Fine Arts, and Art Center \$1,250 each, second by Dade. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.