

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 20, 2026
501 Main Street
5:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on August 20, 2026, at 501 Main Street. Mayor Mark Smidt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There were eight council members present, one absent. Tyler Walker, Kathie Mahoney, Doug Matlick, Steve Andrews, Devon Dade, Matt VanBerkum, Michael Greenwald and Roger Bryant, were present. Todd Marshall was absent. Staff in attendance: City Administrator Jim Ferneau, City Clerk Celeste El Anfaoui, Public Works Director Brian Carroll, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Police Chief Zeth Baum, and Waste Water Treatment Plant Manager Tom.

MAYOR’S REPORT: The Mayor provided an update on his attendance at the School Board meeting to gauge interest in the school district assuming responsibility for Joyce Park. He reported that the homeless shelter is nearing completion. He also stated that the sound system in the Council Chambers will be reviewed and tested in an effort to improve the ongoing sound issues.

Motion made by Walker, second by Mahoney to approve the agenda, including the consent agenda. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

- Minutes of the Council Workshop & Regular Council meeting of August 6, 2026;
- Cash Receipts & Treasurer’s Report for July 2026;
- **RESOLUTION NO. 165-2026:** Approving an Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption for Michael & Nolann Thrush, 2018 Missouri Street, 26’x32’ detached garage w/8’x26’ covered porch;
- **RESOLUTION NO. 166-2026:** Approving a Liquor License for Keokuk Labor Fraternal Council, 301 Blondeau Street, Class C Retail Alcohol License, 5-day term effective September 3-7, 2026 - **effective immediately pending dram;**
- Special Event Permit for Tonya Diamond, Don’t You Ever Give Up Suicide Walk, Saturday, September 5, 2026, Rand Park (rain date September 6, 2026);
- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.’s 5557-5559;

Mayor Smidt opened the public hearing at 5:35 p.m. on a request for a permanent encroachment permit at 19 N. 7th Street. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on August 6, 2026.

COMMENTS: Broomhall gave overview.

There being no further comments or objections, Mayor Smidt closed the public hearing at 5:36 p.m.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Walker to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 167-2026:** “A RESOLUTION GRANTING A PERMANENT ENCROACHMENT FOR AN ADA RAMP AT 19 N. 7th STREET, AS REQUESTED BY MBMRE, LLC d/b/a GREEN OAK DEVELOPMENT.” (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Matlick to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 168-2026:** “A RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT WITH PIERCE FENCE COMPANY FOR LEVEE ACCESS FENCING PROJECT.” (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Dade to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 169-2026**: “ A RESOLUTION APPROVING 411 AGREEMENTS WITH NORTH RISK PARTNERS.” (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

SEIRPC Presentation on Elkem Site Cleanup Updates: Zach James, Assistant Director of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, presented information regarding the Brownfield cleanup grants awarded to the City of Keokuk for the cleanup of the Elkem Carbide site and the status of the cleanup. He was assisted by Kansha Tiwari, Planner for the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, and Emily Smart, Environmental Consultant with Eocene.

Motion made by Matlick, second by Dade to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 170-2026**: “ A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIRING OF A PROJECT COORDINATOR AND SETTING SALARY.” (6) AYES, (2) NAYS – Matlick & Mahoney. Motion carried.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS: Matlick reported that the Public Works Committee reviewed the request regarding the Marez easement and is not in favor of granting the easement. The Committee will maintain the decision made regarding the previous request in the 1980s. Greenwald reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting, including concerns regarding vandalism in the parks and the rules and regulations related to the urban deer hunt. Mahoney informed the Council that the Personnel Committee will meet to discuss the final candidate for Broomhall’s position and will bring a recommendation before the Council at the next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS: Carroll informed the Council that Park Lane will be open on Monday, August 24. Ferneau informed the Council of the upcoming Main Street Review for Wednesday, August 26, and discussed obtaining an agreement related to communication companies regarding excavation within the City’s right-of-way.

Motion made by Walker, second by Dade to adjourn meeting at 6:27 p.m.