



## NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIOUX CITY, IOWA

City Council agendas are also available on the Internet at [www.sioux-city.org](http://www.sioux-city.org).

You are hereby notified a Study Session of the City Council of the City of Sioux City, Iowa, will be held on November 23, 2009, 3:05 p.m., local time, in the Council Chambers, 5th Floor, City Hall, 405 6th Street, for the purpose of discussing items of general interest and concern to the City Council of the City of Sioux City and citizens thereof and matters to be brought to the attention of the City Council by the City Manager and staff, and for such other business that may come before the Council. Times listed are approximate and matters may be discussed before or after the times shown.

---

### AGENDA

- 3:05 p.m. Call of the roll.
- 3:05 p.m. Closed session of the City Council to discuss strategy with Counsel about matters where litigation is imminent because public disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the City in that litigation.
- 3:15 p.m. Closed session of the City Council to discuss strategy with Counsel about matters that are presently in litigation because public disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the City in that litigation.
- 3:35 p.m. [Proposed State Legislative Issues for City Hall Day.](#)
- 3:55 p.m. Adjournment.

*City Council agendas are available on the Internet at [www.sioux-city.org](http://www.sioux-city.org).*

*The City of Sioux City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the City of Sioux City are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Officer, City Hall, 405 6th Street, Room 204, (712) 279-6259. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.*

U:\CityAgenda\Minutes and Agendas\Council agendas\2009\1123ssa

	<b>Regular Session</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>Study Session</b>
	<b>Closed Session</b>

**CITY OF SIOUX CITY  
REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

**MEETING DATE:** November 23, 2009                      **ACTION ITEM #** SS1

**FROM:** Paul Eckert, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Discussion of State Legislative Priorities

**Reviewed By:**     Department Director                      Finance Department                       City Attorney                       City Manager

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Staff respectfully requests City Council direction.

**DISCUSSION:**  
We request City Council provide direction and any additional items not listed. This list of priorities will be used for our City Hall Day in December. Staff will use this information to develop legislation to be submitted by our legislators during the upcoming Legislative Session.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**  
None.

**RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**  
Progressive Leadership – We will use formal and informal methods to engage the City Council, our employees, and our customers to promote enhanced organizational engagement and commitment to our shared vision.

**ALTERNATIVES (Optional):**  
N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**  
Proposed State Legislative Priorities

## **Proposed State Legislative Priorities** *(Not in Priority Order)*

- **Grow Iowa Values Fund and I-Jobs** – The Iowa League of Cities, Professional Developers of Iowa, and others call for maintaining or increasing funding for economic development programs and encouraging policies aimed at enhancing economic development. Changes enacted in the 2009 Legislative session consolidated and streamlined many of these programs under the **Grow Iowa Values Fund**. Enactment of the **I-Jobs program** included designation of \$100 million of funding planned for the 2010 session. Most of the initial funding went to flood relief efforts, and these additional funds were intended to support economic development across the state, for example through investments in infrastructure.

*Request: The City of Sioux City is requesting legislative support to continue these critical programs with a proven track record of success and return on investment. We are also seeking continued support for the regional marketing program. We request also funding be provided for rail improvements through I-Jobs or other programs.*

- **Preserve & Enhance Existing Economic Development Tools including Tax Credit Programs** – Iowa needs to protect and enhance the use of tax credit programs that help to generate economic growth. These tax credit programs, which require taxpayer investment only if the growth actually occurs, include the Enterprise Zone, High Quality Job Creation, Research Activities Tax Credits, and other programs critical to Iowa's competitiveness.

*Request: The City of Sioux City requests continued legislative support for Iowa's Tax Credit programs and a commitment to increasing Iowa competitiveness to attract economic growth.*

- **Targeted Jobs Withholding Tax Credit Program** – The Targeted Jobs program has proven itself to be an extremely useful tool to attracting and retaining good paying jobs in Sioux City. During the 2009 Legislative session this program was extensively reviewed and a number of changes were enacted that both extended the program and tightened the rules and imposed limits on the program. These changes took effect July 1. The City and the other pilot cities worked closely with our legislators and the IDEED to insure both the effectiveness and the accountability of this critical program.

*Request: The City of Sioux City urges continued support from our State Legislators to preserve the Targeted Jobs program.*

- **Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits** – These tax credits have been key factors in many successful projects encouraging reinvestment in Iowa's communities. Recently the state has adopted a policy of adding language to the award of these historic tax credits that includes a "claw back" provision to recapture tax credits in the event the tax credits are discontinued or the program altered, reflecting the serious threat to these programs. As a result many of these projects, for example the Badgerow Building project in Sioux City, may be negatively impacted.

*Request: The City of Sioux City requests support for the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program.*

- **Authorizing State Certified Law Enforcement Officers to Take Sworn Statements** – Currently certified officers working for the Department of Public Safety are authorized to take sworn statements.

Request: *The City of Sioux City is requesting legislation be enacted that extends that authority to all state certified law enforcement officers.*

- **Revise Section 809A Specifying Sharing Percentages for Forfeited Property** – Currently administrative rules provide the Attorney General’s Office receives 10% of all cash forfeitures under state law. The 10% is based on the total amount ordered forfeited and does not allow for the deduction of any expenses including court costs directly related to the forfeiture. A proposal is under review to increase the percentage to 20%. We are requesting that legislation be passed fixing the percentage for the Attorney General’s Office at 10% after direct expenses are deducted.

Request: *The City of Sioux City request the local County Attorney’s Office filling the forfeiture paperwork receive a fee not to exceed 20% after direct expenses are deducted.*

- **Ramifications of Proposed Retirement Contributions Rates** – The forecasted contributions rates required by Cities for the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System will result in dramatic reductions in the funding for future other services.

Request: *The City of Sioux City is seeking legislative assistance in developing a model which allocates future contributions increases to the retirement system more equitably between the City and the employee.*

- **Iowa's Prevailing Wage Bill** – Establishing a prevailing wage for locally funded projects will add significant cost for administration and construction for municipal projects.

Request: *The City of Sioux City is requesting the legislature oppose this bill.*

- **General Motors Bankruptcy Ruling** – With the State of New York’s Ruling on General Motors Assets, GM will be allowed to abandon an environmental cleanup site along Sioux City’s Riverfront and adversely affect the community’s drinking water source.

Request: *The City of Sioux City is requesting the legislature oppose the State of New York ruling.*

- **500 Year Flood Plain requirement for Iowa** – Rebuild Iowa Office and the state’s Water Resources Coordinating Council are proposing the 0.2% (500 year) flood should be the regulated flood plain instead of the 1% (100 year) flood. This will significantly impact river/creek communities and will drastically effect Sioux City.

Request: *The City of Sioux City is requesting the legislature oppose this request.*

- **Language in Chapter 400.2 Qualifications** – Conflict of Interest is overly restrictive and should be revised. This language was added to the code in the last legislative session and has since had a detrimental effect on the City of Sioux City. Two of our Civil Service Commissioners were forced to resign their positions because of indirect or direct interests in contracts with the City. We have been unable to fill these vacant positions, due to the restrictions set forth in the conflict of interest paragraph. It is unclear why this language exists and why special language of this nature is needed only for civil service commissions, but no other boards or commission.

Request: *The City of Sioux City is requesting the legislature support revising Chapter 400.2 omitting language that restricts appointing Civil Service Commissioners due to conflicts of interest.*

- **Language in Chapter 403.16 Personal Interest Prohibited, regarding public officials, municipal employees and members of boards or commission being prohibited from voluntarily acquiring interest in property in urban renewal areas** –The code states that, “No public official or employee of a municipality, or board or commission thereof, and no commissioner or employee of an urban renewal agency, which has been vested by a municipality with urban renewal project powers under section 403.14, shall voluntarily acquire any personal interest

Request: *The City of Sioux City is requesting the legislature support amendments to Chapter 403.16 allowing an employee of a municipality shall be allowed to acquire property in urban renewal areas.*

- **Iowa Code/Title XIV Property/Subtitle 2 Real Property – Gifts/Chapter 558 Conveyances/558.46 Mandatory recording of certain residential real estate installment sales contracts** – The City of Sioux City believes that a reduction in the sales contract recording time period will greatly reduce further fraudulent real estate transactions and will also allow cities an opportunity to recover abatement costs which are incurred by many communities across the state of Iowa.

Request: *The City of Sioux City would like to seek new legislation to reduce the time period for which a seller of residential real estate is required to record the installment sales contract of property sold in Iowa. Under current state law, a contract seller of property has 180 days before the seller is required to record the installment sales contract of the property.*

- **Regional Sports Authority Appropriations** – In 2009 the city was awarded one of 10 regional sports district authorities by the state of Iowa. The bill provides that each authority shall actively promote nonprofessional sporting events in the local area. The bill’s total funding was \$500,000 to be split evenly among the 10 authorities. The funding allows the city to be reimbursed \$2 for every \$1 spent. The city is eligible to receive up to \$50,000 in state economic development funds for this program.

Request: *The City of Sioux City is seeking state funds to continue funding for the Sioux City Sports Authority. The funding will allow the city to continue to maintain current nonprofessional sporting events and to attract events new to Sioux City and the state of Iowa.*

- **Workforce Development** – Addressing workforce development initiatives such as training and community college programs is important to Iowa’s future. Despite the current downturn in the economy and increase in unemployment, long term demographic changes mean the state will face a growing and critical need to attract new workers in the future. A new regional workforce strategic plan is under development to address these issues.

Request: *The City of Sioux City is asking for continued support for Iowa’s workforce training programs and new innovative approaches being developed in our region.*

- **Transportation Finance/TIME-21** – The City of Sioux City supports an increase in funding for TIME-21 to reach or exceed the \$200 million estimated annual need to maintain

Iowa's roads and bridges. The completion of a four lane Highway 20 would help to grow our region's economy. We also support an increase in dollars for rail infrastructure. Given the increased interest in rail related development this would benefit Sioux City's economic development efforts.

*Request: The City of Sioux City requests the legislature increase investment in Iowa's transportation infrastructure.*

- **Shovel Ready Sites** – PDI supports the creation of a statewide shovel ready site program, giving Iowa communities a competitive edge.

*Request: The City asks for support for a statewide shovel ready program to improve Iowa's competitiveness and help attract jobs and economic growth.*