

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL
BLUE GRASS, IOWA MARCH 2, 2026**

The Blue Grass City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd day of March 2026, in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Mississippi Street, Blue Grass, Iowa, pursuant to law, with Mayor Brad Schutte presiding, with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of reflection.

Council present: Hermann, Smith, Bowman and Brandenburg. Absent was member Blok.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Bowman moved to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Smith-aye, Hermann-aye and Brandenburg-aye. Motion carried.

MAYORAL COMMENTS: Mayor Schutte read aloud the Mayoral Comments.

PUBLIC FORUM: From those in attendance, there were none.

CONSENT AGENDA: Brandenburg moved to approve the Consent as presented, seconded by Smith.

1. **February 11, 2026 minutes**
2. **February 17, 2026 minutes**
3. **Resolution 2026-12 ref: authorizing a payment from the Tax Increment LMI Reserve**
4. **Payment of claims**

Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye, Bowman-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL:

5. **ImOn Telecommunications:** Director of Re-Aim Osp Construction Randy Schoon representing ImOn Communications gave the Council a brief introductory of the fastest fiber optic high-speed internet services that ImOn Communications can offer both residents and businesses of Blue Grass. Mr. Schoon said that if the Council was interested, ImOn would do their initial survey to see if there was interest, then proceed with the design and engineering then begin the initial underground construction. Questions were asked about ImOn's fiber optic high-speed internet speeds. Council asked that Mr. Schoon begin their research as they welcomed ImOn Communications to Blue Grass.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

6. **Committee Recommendations:** Mayor Schutte reported that the Finance Committee had met on February 11, 2026 to discuss the City's insurance renewal. It was the Committee's recommendation to stay with Porter Insurance based on their 30 years of longevity and service.
7. **Porter Insurance:** Seth Porter representing Porter Insurance presented the City with their new policy for the period of April 1, 2026 through April 1, 2027 from Employers Mutual Casualty Company adding that there was an increase based on the City's last three years of claims and increased liability coverage on both law enforcement and volunteer firefighters. He also reminded the Council that the City receives a dividend check from IAMU every year as part of the City's overall experience from the previous year reporting a dividend refund of \$8,794.00. Mr. Porter gave several recommendations on increasing some deductibles and increasing some limits. Discussion was held. Smith made a motion to approve Porter Insurance Agency as the City's insurance carrier for the period of April 1, 2026 through April 1, 2027, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Smith-aye, Hermann-aye, Brandenburg-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

8. **Report:** Chief Brian Seamer presented both the January and February 2026 Fire Department reports.
9. **Knox Rapid Access:** Chief Seamer educated the Council on the Knox Rapid Access Master Key and Box that allows Fire Departments immediate access if/when there is an emergency reporting that the Davenport Community School District has already implemented the Knox Box; therefore, the Fire

Department will need to purchase the Knox Box for their trucks. He reported an estimate of approximately \$10,000.00 to purchase. Discussion was held. Brandenburg moved to approve the Knox Rapid Access Box purchase, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye, Hermann-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

ENGINEER REPORT:

10. Report: Mayor Schutte presented the February 2026 Engineer's report prepared by City Engineer Mike Janecek.

11. East Telegraph Road: Council agreed to discuss under Item #16.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER:

12. Report: Building Commissioner Jim Meyrer presented the February 2026 Building Commissioner report.

13. HVAC & Maintenance: Meyrer presented the following bids in regards to the Public Safety Building's HVAC and Maintenance 2-year Contracts: Ragan Mechanical \$2,528.00 and Northwest Plumbing & Heating \$2,270.00. Council reviewed both proposed Contracts and based on the longevity and experience, Bowman moved to approve Ragan Mechanical's 2-year Contract in the amount of \$2,528.00 per year, seconded by Brandenburg. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

14. UPS Replacement: Meyrer previously presented a bid from Data-Power Technologies to replace the Public Safety Building's three-phase UPS battery backup system that is now obsolete; however, the Council requested that another bid be obtained.

Mayor Schutte reported that there was nothing new to report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

15. Report: Public Works Director Jim Meyrer presented the February 2026 Public Works Department report.

16. Street Assessments: Meyrer reported that he and the City Engineer had met to assess the various street repairs compiling a list with North Mississippi Street being prioritized as the highest. Council reviewed the Engineer's estimates; however, had several questions; therefore, requested that the Engineer attend the next meeting to further discuss.

17. Status of drainage project: Meyrer reported that the Contractor would begin the drainage project once the frost is suitable.

18. Striping of Streets bids: Meyrer presented the following bids: ProLine Striping \$35,404.00 noting that there would be an upcharge for the striping of W Laurretta Street; Eastern Iowa Asphalt \$38,549.68 and Weikert Contracting \$39,685.00. Discussion was held. Bowman moved to approve ProLine Striping's bid in the amount of \$35,404.00, seconded by Brandenburg. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING:

19. Sale of City Real Estate: Smith moved to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Smith-aye, Hermann-aye, Brandenburg-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried. Mayor Schutte opened the public hearing for discussion reporting that the City had received a bid from Brandon Schadt on February 2, 2026 in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the purchase of the West Laurretta Street parcel. Discussion was held. The Clerk reported that there were no oral or written objections. Mayor Schutte asked for further discussion, since there were none, Bowman moved to close the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Hermann-aye, Smith-aye and Brandenburg-aye. Motion carried.

20. Resolution 2026-10: Brandenburg moved to adopt Resolution 2026-10 authorizing the sale of City Property in the amount of \$7,500.00, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye, Hermann-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

PLANNING & ZONING:

21. Recommendations: Mayor Schutte referred to the minutes of the Commission who held a public hearing on February 25, 2026 on the request from C & M Holdings to rezone a parcel of land from A-1 Agricultural to R-2 Two-Family Residence District as the Commission recommended that the City Council approve.

PUBLIC HEARING:

22. Request from C & M Holdings to rezone: Smith moved to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Smith-aye, Hermann-aye, Brandenburg-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried. Mayor Schutte opened the public hearing for discussion. The Clerk reported that there were no oral objections; however, received 1 written objection. C & M Holdings, LLC, Matt Sampson and Chris Jepsen briefed the Council on their rezoning request, as they want to create a beautiful neighborhood in this particular area and do something great for Blue Grass as they both live in Blue Grass and take great pride in their work. Discussion was held. Mayor Schutte asked for further discussion, since there were none, Smith moved to close the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Smith-aye, Hermann-aye, Bowman-aye and Brandenburg-aye. Motion carried.

23. Resolution 2026-11: Smith moved to adopt Resolution 2026-11 rezoning a tract of land on the request from C & M Holdings, LLC from A-1 Agricultural to R-2 Two-Family Residence District based on the recommendations from the City Attorney and Planning & Zoning Commission, seconded by Bowman. Roll call: Smith-aye, Bowman-aye, Brandenburg-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTIONS:

24. Second reading of Ordinance Amendment 2026-02: Smith moved to accept the second reading of Ordinance Amendment 2026-02 an Amendment to Chapter 6.20 Regulating the number and type of livestock, seconded by Brandenburg. Roll call: Smith-aye, Brandenburg-aye, Hermann-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

NUISANCE ABATEMENT(S):

25. Nuisance Abatement(s): Mayor Schutte reported that there were no new nuisance abatements.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

26. FY '26-'27 Budget: The Clerk reported that she had met with the Finance Committee on February 11, 2026 at which meeting reviewed the FY '26-'27 proposed budget, setting a levy rate of 11.78666 reminding the Council of the Proposed Property Tax Levy Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. set for April 1, 2026.

27. Bids: Meyrer presented the following bids for the purchase of a Freightliner 108SD Dump Truck: Truck Country \$105,921.00; Midway Freightliner \$107,756.00 which includes \$8,610.00 in upcharges with a trade-in value of \$25,000.00 for the City's 2013 Freightliner Dump Truck and Higgs \$75,550.97 and Knapheide \$76,270.00. Council compared the bids. It was the consensus of the Council to keep the City's snowblade. Bowman moved to approve Midway Freightliner's bid in the amount of \$107,756.00 and Higgs' bid in the amount of \$75,550.97 trading in the City's 2013 Freightliner Dump Truck for \$25,000.00, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Bowman-aye, Hermann-aye, Smith-aye and Brandenburg-aye. Motion carried.

28. Set Public Hearing Date: Smith moved to set the public hearing date of April 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. for the FY '25 -'26 Budget Amendment, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Smith-aye, Hermann-aye, Bowman-aye and Brandenburg-aye. Motion carried.

29. Purchase: Chief Meier presented a quote from 424 Warning Systems for the purchase of a '25 Chevy Tahoe SUV squad along with additional wiring and graphic package totaling \$77,655.00. Discussion was held. Brandenburg moved to accept the quote from 424 Warning Systems in the amount of \$77,655.00 for the purchase of a '25 Chevy Tahoe SUV Squad plus additional costs, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye Smith-aye, Bowman-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

30. Report: Chief Mike Meier presented the February 2026 Police Department report.

LICENSING:

31. Liquor License renewal: Brandenburg moved to approve American Legion Post #711 liquor license renewal, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye, Bowman-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

32. Strategic Planning & Goal Setting: There was nothing new to report.

COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Bowman inquired about the Codebook update. The Clerk reported that Simmering-Cory projected a draft by June 2026; however, we have not submitted the last questionnaire that was submitted last November.

RECESS: Smith moved to recess for 5 minutes, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Smith-aye, Hermann-aye, Bowman-aye and Brandenburg-aye. Motion carried. Smith moved to reconvene, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Smith-aye, Hermann-aye, Brandenburg-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

33. Strategy Session – Bargaining Session: Mayor Schutte referred to the Code of Iowa, Section 20.17 stating that the Council would be going into executive closed session for a strategy session. Smith moved to close the regular meeting and go into closed session, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Smith-aye, Hermann-aye, Brandenburg-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

Brandenburg moved to reopen the regular meeting, seconded by Smith. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Smith-aye, Hermann-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

Smith moved to approve a three percent merit increase to all full-time employees effective July 1, 2026, seconded by Hermann. Roll call: Smith-aye, Hermann-aye, Brandenburg-aye and Bowman-aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Brandenburg made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bowman. Roll call: Brandenburg-aye, Bowman-aye, Smith-aye and Hermann-aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Mayor Brad Schutte

Attest: Joyce Lorenz, Assistant City Clerk/Financial Officer

CLAIMS:

424 WARNING SYSTEMS	NEW SQUAD	77,655.00
AHERN COMPANY	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	1,909.90
B.G. BUGLE	ADV & PUBLICATIONS	200.00
BP	FUEL	461.45
CENTRAL STATES H & W FUND	HEALTH INS	11,942.00
CENTURYLINK	FAX	239.18
COLUMN SUPPORT	ADV & PUBLICATIONS	655.49
DEPT OF ADMIN SVS	ADMIN FEES	50.00
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING	TRAINING	400.00
IOWA AMERICAN WATER	UTILITIES	135.80
LEGACY FIRE APPARATUS	EQUIP OPER	502.16
MARTIN & WHITACRE SURVEYORS	ENGINEERING SVS	4,975.15
MEDIACOM	INTERNET SVS	766.94
MIDAMERICAN	UTILITIES	4,479.61
NAPA	EQUIP OPER	386.47
NU-TREND ACCESS SYSTEMS	LMI GRANT	3,995.00
OFFICE MACHINE CONSULT	EQUIP OPER	94.25
RNJ DISTRIB.	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	92.10
SCOTT CO. SHERIFF	JAIL EXP	75.00
SHEEDER HEATING & AIR	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	3,500.00
VERIZON	TELEPH/FAX/INTERNET	637.21
VETERINARY AND POULTRY SUPPLY	BLDG & GRNDS MAINT	106.40
TOTAL:		113,259.11

TOTAL FUNDS:

GENERAL	63,567.11
POLICE DEPT RESERVE	21,000.00
POLICE SQUAD/EQUIP RESERVE	25,000.00
ROAD USE	1,750.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	11,942.00
TOTAL FUNDS:	113,259.11