

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION  
OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL**

**BLUE GRASS, IOWA**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

The Blue Grass City Council met in special session as an Economic Development Committee at 6:00 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025 in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Mississippi St., Blue Grass, Iowa, pursuant to law, with Mayor Brad Schutte presiding, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of reflection.

Council present: Brandenburg, Blok, Hermann, Smith and Bowman. Also present was Building Commissioner Jim Meyrer, Fire Chief Brian Seamer, Police Chief Mike Meier and City Attorney William McCullough.

Mayor Schutte commented to the audience that the topic to be discussed at this meeting was intended for discussion only and that no action would be taken as this meeting was a Committee of the Whole session only.

The Mayor presented the topic to be open for discussion and opened the meeting.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** There were none from the audience in attendance.

**Economic Development:** Council reiterated some of the previous discussions from the May 20, 2025 Economic Development Committee meeting as it was the consensus of the Council to continue to hold strategic planning sessions and set goals for the next 3-5 years and look into the City's future and set a vision.

Council expressed the following concerns: the retiring of senior staff in the next 2-5 years as that will have a major impact on the City as their replacements will be rather difficult to fill especially knowing that there is a shortage of Officers throughout the County; the City's Fire Department, as it has been reported that in the next 5 years there could potentially be a lot of Fire Department personnel retiring stating that the City needs to find new ways to recruit new members possibly get Scott County as a whole involved as other Departments, too are having the same issues; budget concerns as the City Clerk has repeatedly expressed concerns on the City's budget with all the State's mandates and grant resources cutting back; concerns on costs to the aging of City Hall and why no generator was ever installed in the case of an emergency; building costs to maintain the Public Safety Building as it now over 16 years old; look at consolidating services by combining buildings to save on costs and put all Departments under one roof; economic development growth: what can the City do entice new businesses to locate to Blue Grass to increase the City's tax base; how can the City increase residential development to not only increase the City's population but to increase the number of students that would attend the Elementary School as the school was the most vital part of Blue Grass; therefore, the City needs to do everything possible to keep the Elementary School and have Mayor Schutte continue holding quarterly meetings with the Davenport Community School District's Superintendent to keep the line of communications open; concerns on lack of residential/commercial/industrial property as there was not much land available within the City limits; street improvements: after spending over \$460,000.00 on preserving the City streets with a micro-sealant, the reconstruction of East Telegraph Road was very concerning, due to the estimated costs of anywhere between \$1M to \$2M and how was the City going to finance the improvements needed; how to get more residents involved in attending meetings and getting residents involved in wanting to fill future elected positions; the future of the Blue Grass Community Center and other Blue Grass organizations; discussed starting up the Chamber of Commerce to get Blue Grass businesses involved in the future of Blue Grass; added amenities for both the elderly and youths of Blue Grass and future residents; what can the Council can do now to promote Blue Grass such as publishing articles in the North Scott Press and Quad City Times and advertise on Facebook and the City's website and look into advertising on television.

After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Mayor and Council to contact the Bi-State Regional Commission to attend a future meeting to guide the City on what can be done to promote "Blue Grass" and keep the item on the Agenda for future discussions.

Mayor Schutte asked for further comments and/or discussion, since there were no other comments, the Mayor adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:22p.m.

Attest: Ann M. Schmidt, CMC, City Clerk/Financial Officer