

March 30, 2026

The City Council of the City of Waterloo, Iowa, met in Special Session at Harold E. Getty Council Chambers, Waterloo, Iowa, at 5:30 PM, on Monday, March 30, 2026.

Pre-Meeting Items

Roll Call.

Mayor Dave Boesen in the Chair. Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Morrow, Ms. Creighton-Smith, Ms. Berry, Mr. Salamanca, Mr. Martin and Mr. Simon.

Prayer or Moment of Silence.

Pledge of Allegiance, Dave Morrow, Ward 2 Council Member.

Approval of Agenda as proposed or amended.

Simon/Schmitt

that the agenda, as proposed or amended, be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

FY2027 Proposed Property Tax Levy Hearing.

Simon/Martin

to receive and file proof of publication of notice of public hearing. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

This being the time and place of the public hearing, the Mayor called for written and oral comments.

Margaret Myoe, Executive Director of the Grout Museum, explained that the state legislation had consolidated local levies, putting forty-four percent of the museum's operating budget at risk. She noted that the museum has already undergone layoffs and building closures to stay afloat.

Henry Korf, 326 Alvarado, Cedar Falls, and Grout Trustee, stated that using these funds to bridge the city's general budget deficit was "unconstitutional" and a violation of the public's trust.

Mary Potter, 1416 W. 4th Street and Grout Trustee, accused the council of being ignorant about the Grout Museum. She shared that the Grout Museum is special and that the city should

consider spending funding on an institution that brings people to the community. She also encouraged people to visit the Grout and support the museum with a membership.

Ryan Malececk, 1552 Pinnacle Place, shared that his daughters went to museum school when they were children, and it has remained as a cherished memory. He stated that the funds are very much needed and asked that funding continue.

Bonnie Smith-Davis, 702 Lorraine, shared that in 2015 voters made their voices clear by approving the levy and urged the council members to honor the mandate.

Jim Buschcamp, 181 Prospect, expressed his support for funding the Grout Museum and stated that what the city is proposing to do is unconstitutional.

Kelly Sullivan, 2228 W. 8th Street, Cedar Falls, shared that her grandmother was 93 years old when she voted for the levy. Her father was able to vote for the levy as well. She shared that there are many military personnel and politicians who come to tour the museum, noting that this brings money to the community.

Cory Champagne, 3713 W. 9th Street and Commander of the American Legion, commented that he agreed with all the comments made so far. He shared that after going through the city's budget simulator, he was prepared to provide a solution to balancing the budget without touching the Grout or the first responders. He will present his solution to his councilperson, Mr. Salamanca.

EJ Gallagher, Board Member and Trustee, 801 Sheridan Road, provided additional supporting comments and said that funding the Grout is the right thing to do. He shared that the extensive exhibits on display recall us to a time when the United States was the hope of the free world. This is not a time to reduce the financial support for this important institution, rather, it is a time to affirm our support for the ideals it represents and resources it provides.

Mike Wagner, 1034 Wendy Road, shared his own military background and commented that since moving here in 1988 he was moved by the level of respect the community has for military service.

George Meeks, 609 E. Donald Street, shared that a highlight at the Grout Museum is when third-graders come to the museum, and they have family members with them that have served.

Heidi Hultman Warrington, 525 Martin Road, commented about her own military service and the recognition the Grout Museum provided to her and the other women of the military upon their return. She shared that every Wednesday the Grout offers coffee and camaraderie for forty to sixty veterans. She further shared that her father, Curly Hultman, had a many-year relationship with NATO, and before his death a year ago, some NATO officers came from Sweden and Belgium to see him. Their comment was that the Grout Museum and the John Deere museum rivaled any museum in Europe and other where in the world. She asked the council to fund the Grout.

Carolyn Carpenter, 717 Grindstone Circle, spoke of the significance of the museum and asked council to support funding the Grout.

Jess Cruz, 119 S. Hackett Road, spoke in favor of supporting and funding the museum.

Ethan Azbill, 2829 Lafayette Street, shared his family's experiences and love for the museum and how important it is for our children.

Phillip Krough, 1016 Ash Street, commented that this is a vital part of our history, and we need to do more to protect it.

Tom Connors, 1304 College Street, history teacher at UNI and Grout Museum Board member, shared that the History Education and Museum Studies Program partners with the Grout and interns are sent there to train them for future work in museums. He commented that keeping the museum going is critical as it is the keeper of Waterloo's history and heirlooms.

Ken Mason, 310 W. Park Lane, shared that he is also from the UNI History Department and the newest member of that department. He said that when he and his wife were searching for where they wanted to live, they chose Waterloo and the Grout Museum had something to do with that decision. They were drawn by the stories of the people of Waterloo that are preserved within the Grout. He further shared that there are wide-ranging ripple effects across the state and asked the council to continue to faithfully steward the levy funds that were voted on by the people of Waterloo.

Liam Christiansen, 45 W. Jefferson Street and Grout Museum Intern, commented that the experience of interning at the Grout is an unbelievable experience and asked council to continue to fully fund the Grout.

Simon/Schmitt

to close the public hearing. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

Ms. Creighton-Smith expressed support for those that came to speak and shared their sentiments.

Mr. Simon shared comments that the council is tirelessly working to find funds to continue to support the Grout Museum.

Ms. Berry shared that she had the chance to meet with the Executive Director of the Grout Museum today and, because the citizens of Waterloo voted for this, she expressed that she will work with the council to find a way to fund the Grout Museum.

Mr. Salamanca thanked everyone for reaching out to him on this issue and said that as a veteran he understands the significance of the Grout Museum, and also understands the significance of budget decisions. He thanked the citizens for trusting council.

Mr. Schmitt thanked everyone for attending tonight and commented that in all of his previous twelve years on council he has not received anywhere near as many texts, calls and emails as he has on this issue.

Mr. Morrow commented on the outpouring he has received and said he is aligned to do the right thing, and supports the Grout.

Mr. Martin shared that he and the rest of the council know how important the Grout is to this

community and that the council will look at every avenue to balance the budget and make the right decisions.

Mayor Boesen thanked everyone for their comments and shared that there are still a few meetings where they will be discussing how to make things right and still balance the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Schmitt/Berry

that the council adjourn at 6:22 p.m. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

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Kelley Felchle  
City Clerk