

May 4, 2026

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harold E. Getty Council Chambers
Pre-Meeting Items

Roll Call.

Members present: Mayor Dave Boesen in the Chair. Roll Call: Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Morrow, Ms. Berry, Mr. Salamanca, Mr. Martin and Mr. Simon. Ms. Creighton-Smith was absent.

Agenda, as proposed or amended.

Simon/Martin
that the agenda as proposed be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Six. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of the April 20, 2026, Council Work Session, as proposed or amended.

Simon/Martin
that the minutes of April 20, 2026, Council Work Session, as proposed be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Six. Motion carried.

Work Session Items

Discussion of a city manager.

Mr. Salamanca shared that he has been approached by constituents to begin a conversation about pivoting our current form of governance to the inclusion of either a city manager or a city administrator. He shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the key differences between the two and provided suggestions on the next steps for this consideration.

Mr. Simon thanked Mr. Salamanca for his work and commented that the two largest cities in Iowa without a Manager/Administrator are us and Council Bluffs, which also have the highest tax rates. He further explained the reasons he believes it is beneficial to look at the position.

Mr. Schmitt thanked Mr. Salamanca for doing the work on the presentation. He questioned why Cedar Rapids and Des Moines were not considered as comparisons.

Mr. Salamanca shared that he chose cities that were relatively comparable in size that already had research in place that was easily accessible. He further shared that all the information in his PowerPoint came from the League of Cities, so we know it is vetted and quality data.

Mayor Boesen commented that he was part of a group exploring a city manager. He believes that a council-manager form of government should be explored to help remove the politics of the position. He shared that the success of the city cannot be based on the next election cycle. He stated that he is in favor of a council-manager form of government.

Mr. Simon commented that we should also look for cities that have recently hired a city

manager, find out what was going on in that city prior and what affect it has had. He shared that in order for our citizens to have confidence in such a change, they will need to hear and see this.

Discussion of changes to sewer rates.

Randy Bennett, Public Works Division Manager, provided an overview of upcoming sewer projects planned for Waste Management.

Bridgett Wood, Finance Director, provided an overview of the reason for the five percent increase.

Mr. Morrow questioned if this rate increase will be charged separately or will continue to be combined in the Water Works billing.

Bridgett Wood confirmed it would continue to be combined in the billing.

Mayor Boesen commented that people are reaching out to him about the convenience fee. People are upset that they were charged the quarterly fee and now that it is switching to monthly, they will be charged the fee more often. He added that that is something that the Water Works would have to work out.

ADJOURNMENT

Simon/Martin

that the council adjourn at 4:33 p.m. Voice vote-Ayes: Six. Motion carried.

Kelley Felchle
City Clerk