Council Meeting
June 15, 2026

The City Council met in semi-monthly session pursuant to adjournment at 4:30 o'clock P.M. on June 15, 2026. A quorum was declared by Mayor Deb De Haan. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 125 Central Ave SE, Orange City, Iowa.

Members Present: Council members Daron De Jong, Andrew Bloemendaal, Olivia Chapman, Mark Scallon, and Bret Walinga

Members Absent: None

Staff: Janet Brown, Ryan Mc Ewen, Jim Pottebaum, and Matt Van Schouwen

Guests: Doug Calsbeek, Dan Roghair, Sarah Weber, Ruth Roghair, Brock Jensen, Jack Bonnecroy, Leanne Bonnecroy, Sharon Foughty, Donna Muilenburg, George Harter, and Kenton Vore

Agenda: A motion was made by Council member Daron De Jong and duly seconded by Council member Andrew Bloemendaal approving the tentative agenda as the official agenda. On call of the roll motion carried. The vote was as follows: AYES: Daron De Jong, Andrew Bloemendaal, Olivia Chapman, Mark Scallon, Bret Walinga; NAYS: None.

Citizen Comments: This time was provided for citizen comments. Donna Muilenburg spoke about the need for a performing arts center for the Tulip Festival Night Show and to bring other events to town, she would like a group to explore, bring examples and costs, along with using a grant writer. She expressed the current location is embarrassing and does not meet the needs of the night show. Kenton Vore would like to see a four-way stop at the intersection of 2nd and Central North.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 1, 2026 council meeting were presented. A motion was made by Council member Bret Walinga and duly seconded by Council member Mark Scallon approving said minutes as published. On call of the roll motion carried. The vote was as follows: AYES: Bret Walinga, Mark Scallon, Andrew Bloemendaal, Olivia Chapman, Daron De Jong; NAYS: None.

Disposal of City Owned Real Estate: This being the time and place as advertised a public hearing was held to consider the disposal of city owned real estate to Northwestern College. The Mayor called for comments from members of the audience. Ryan explained the college is using this piece of property to acquire a large retailer on one of their open lots. Kenton Vore inquired about property tax revenue. Sarah Weber asked why the city was not pursuing this retailer. No written objections were filed. The Mayor then closed the time for the public hearing.

A motion was made by Council member Daron De Jong and duly seconded by Council member Bret Walinga adopting a resolution ratifying and authorizing the disposal of municipally owned property, a 30’x90’ parcel on the southwest corner of the grass lot between Taco John’s and Mulder Auto. On call of the roll motion carried. The vote was as follows: AYES: Daron De Jong, Bret Walinga, Andrew Bloemendaal, Olivia Chapman, Mark Scallon; NAYS: None. The resolution was assigned number 6-15-26-2196 and appears in the official resolution book.

Vacation of Utility Easements: This being the time and place as advertised a public hearing was held to consider the vacation of three side yard utility easements located in Puddle Jumper Trail Fifth and Seventh Additions, where duplexes have been built. The Mayor called for comments from members of the audience and no one was heard speaking for or against the proposed vacation of utility easements. No written objections were filed. The Mayor then closed the time for the public hearing.

A motion was made by Council member Bret Walinga and duly seconded by Council member Olivia Chapman adopting a resolution approving the vacation of the utility easements. On call of the roll motion carried. The vote was as follows: AYES: Bret Walinga, Olivia Chapman, Andrew Bloemendaal, Daron De Jong, Mark Scallon; NAYS: None. The resolution was assigned number 6-15-26-2197 and appears in the official resolution book.

Resolution Setting Salaries for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year: A motion was made by Council member Bret Walinga and duly seconded by Council member Daron De Jong adopting a resolution setting salaries for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. On call of the roll motion carried. The vote was as follows: AYES: Bret Walinga, Daron De Jong, Andrew Bloemendaal, Olivia Chapman, Mark Scallon; NAYS: None. The resolution was assigned number 6-15-26-2198 and

appears in the official resolution book.

Retail Tobacco Permit Renewal Applications: A motion was made by Council member Olivia Chapman and duly seconded by Council member Bret Walinga approving the Retail Tobacco Permit renewal applications as submitted by Brew Oil, Casey's, Conoco, Dollar Fresh, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Dutchmart Foods, Fareway, and Kwik Star. On call of the roll motion carried. The vote was as follows: AYES: Olivia Chapman, Bret Walinga, Andrew Bloemendaal, Daron De Jong, Mark Scallon; NAYS: None.

Retail Alcohol License Renewal Application: A motion was made by Council member Daron De Jong and duly seconded by Council member Andrew Bloemendaal approving the renewal application for a Special Class C Retail Alcohol License from Woudstra Meat Market for Gezellig. On call of the roll motion carried. The vote was as follows: AYES: Daron De Jong, Andrew Bloemendaal, Olivia Chapman, Mark Scallon, Bret Walinga; NAYS: None.

Hotel/Motel Tax Distribution: The Council discussed the hotel/motel tax distributions. Currently 7% tax is charged, with 4% being used for community betterment projects and 3% being returned to the two hotels. This practice has been in place since 2013 and provides approximately $80,000/year funding to the hotels. Olivia mentioned the monies could be used well for community betterment projects and asked how other cities in Iowa are using hotel/motel tax dollars. Mark said the city could use the dollars to benefit tourism or events that would increase occupancy rate at the hotels; he has spoken to several investors and did not receive negative feedback on cutting the tax distribution. Daron stated this is challenging and doesn't want to disincentivize the investors that brought the Hampton Inn to town, maybe the council could consider sunsetting the tax distribution to the hotels. Bret questioned who does the city choose to incentivize, there is $85,000 coming on the tax rolls from the Hampton Inn TIF, losing both the TIF and tax distribution in one year could be tough, feels there needs to be a conversation with the investors before making a change. Mayor De Haan stated we will keep researching and moving forward. No official action was taken.

Park/Rec Assistant Position: A motion was made by Council member Daron De Jong and duly seconded by Council member Bret Walinga approving the hiring of Carter Aalbers as Park/Rec Assistant. On call of the roll motion carried. The vote was as follows: AYES: Daron De Jong, Bret Walinga, Andrew Bloemendaal, Olivia Chapman, Mark Scallon; NAYS: None.

Administrative Reports:
Scheduled Meetings/Important Dates:

June 15	Council Meeting, 4:30 P.M.
July 6	Council Meeting, 4:30 P.M.
July 13	Mayor's Cup
July 20	Council Meeting, 4:30 P.M.
August 3	Council Meeting, 4:30 P.M.
August 17	Council Meeting, 4:30 P.M.

Oral reports: Matt shared the Customer Appreciation Picnic is July 22; Code Enforcement Officer interviews this week; working with P&Z on adding a self inspection option for the rental housing inspection process; provided a 7th Street and Madison Place update. Ryan is reviewing the multiunit tax abatement incentive, will provide information in July. Dan reported that the Fire Department will be doing a final inspection on the new truck soon.

Council Comments: The Mayor called for comments from members of the Council and the following were heard. Andrew stated Windmill Park looks great with the flowers. Mark expressed appreciation to Noah during this busy season; the library is busy too. Bret shared a thank you for the downtown music and inquired if there will be a new sidewalk along Lincoln Place to the new park. Matt responded that will happen yet this year with TIF monies. Olivia is willing to serve as a liaison for the Performing Arts Center and thanked Jaaron Paugh for his service.

Adjournment: No further business appearing it was therefore moved by Council member Daron De Jong and duly seconded by Council member Bret Walinga to adjourn. On call of the roll motion carried. The vote was as follows: AYES: Daron De Jong, Bret Walinga, Andrew Bloemendaal, Olivia Chapman, Mark Scallon; NAYS: None. Adjournment time was 5:19 o'clock P.M.

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Deb De Haan, Mayor

ATTEST:_____
Janet Brown, City Clerk