

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025 10:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Rogers, Vice Chairperson Meisheid and Supervisor Running-Marquardt. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: Jo Ann Beer, Fairfax Mayor, stated that she wanted to provide the Supervisor's with an update on how they stand with Cedar Rapids and the 28E agreement on the annexation. The topic is on the agenda for the Google URA. She added that they are really close and it is in the hands of their annexation attorney. There are a few minor things here and there and hopefully can get a signed agreement soon.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve minutes of January 29, 2025 as printed.

Motion by Meisheid, seconded by Rogers To approve claims dated 1/31/25 for payroll deduction checks #71016820 - #71016822 in the amount of \$450.00, ACH in the amount of \$21,361.90, an EFT wire in the amount of \$1,134,619.08 and a Ceridian ER Funds Trust Wire in the amount of \$2,279,213.84, for a total of \$3,435,644.82.

Chairperson Rogers read Proclamation: Black History Month, February 2025.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to adopt said Proclamation: Black History Month, February 2025.

Scott Mather, City of Cedar Rapids, discussed a Resolution Approving a Joint City/County Agreement (with the City of Cedar Rapids) pertaining to the Google Urban Renewal Area and Authorizing the Execution of Said Agreement. The City intends to create the Google Urban Renewal Area along 76th Avenue and Edgewood Road within the Big Cedar Industrial Park. The joint agreement allows the City to use Urban Renewal authority outside city limits but within two miles of those limits. The City is requesting Urban Renewal authority to complete infrastructure improvements to advance economic development (improvements include hard surfacing 76th Avenue to the urban cross section).

Supervisor Rogers thanked Mather for the discussions regarding this agreement.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt added that they worked with the City to add some language to the resolution regarding including improvements to the Old Bridge Road Bridge. She appreciates their attention to a historic bridge as it means a lot to the people of Fairfax. She appreciates everyone's patience with this process. Running-Marquardt highlighted that this was originally City Councilman Scott Olson's idea.

Supervisor Meisheid expressed her appreciation for the collaboration.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to adopt Resolution 2025-2-17

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOINT CITY/COUNTY AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO THE GOOGLE URBAN RENEWAL AREA AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SAID AGREEMENT
WHEREAS, Iowa Code Chapter 403 allows cities to create an urban renewal area by establishing a geographic district that is defined by a boundary description and designated as an area for urban renewal projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Rapids proposes to establish the Google Urban Renewal Area and to designate it as an "economic development area" to encourage economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Google Urban Renewal Area includes property that is in unincorporated Linn County outside the corporate limits of Cedar Rapids but within two miles of such limits; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 403.17(4) requires the consent of a county for a city to include property outside its corporate limits but within two miles of such limits in an urban renewal area; and
WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors requested that the City of Cedar Rapids include improvements to the Old Bridge Road Bridge (Iowa Bridge Number 220430) on the list of projects in the Urban Renewal Plan for the Google Urban Renewal Area and is satisfied that the City of Cedar Rapids will do so at a later date; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa proposes a Joint City/County Agreement for the purpose of satisfying the consent requirements in Iowa Code Section 403.17(4); and

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors finds that its approval of the proposed Joint City/County Agreement is in the best interest of Linn County.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED the Linn County Board of Supervisors approves the Joint City/County Agreement pertaining to the Google Urban Renewal Area and authorizes the chairperson to execute said Agreement on behalf of Linn County.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to approve payroll authorizations (detail is available upon request).

Supervisor Rogers requested to remove the Linn County Sustainability & Resiliency Advisory Committee appointment as this Committee may have a different future going forward with another organization.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Meisheid to remove appointment of Tremaine Woods to the Linn County Sustainability & Resiliency Advisory Committee for a one-year term, ending December 31, 2025.

The Board recessed at 10:11 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. to finalize the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Also present: Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir. and Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir.

Supervisor Rogers stated that they have two items they need to move on. One is the acceptance of the offer for the Treasurer's Office no wait inside software and once a decision is made on that, reappropriate \$18,754 to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Bearrows added for clarification that this is a General Fund expense, not a Capital Projects expense so the \$18,754 would go to the Capital Improvements Dept. (would be with the other emergency Capital projects money).

Supervisor Meisheid thanked everyone for their patience and understanding Friday with the new information they received and the extra time she requested. Her initial vote was no, but with the assurance from Treasurer Oleson (both verbal and in writing) that customer walk ins will always be allowed, she will now vote in favor of the software. Meisheid believes this software is in the best interest for the residents and will be a cost savings, noting that she will be deeply disappointed if they fail to meet all the services they have committed to.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt added that she appreciates everyone's work on this. Treasurer Oleson has stated both publicly and in writing that there will always and forever be walk ins allowed. Given that information, she will also support this. She acknowledges that this is something they had to work through, and this was not a special favor or a form of favoritism. Running-Marquardt's intentions and the intentions of others is to provide the best customer service. They are doing what is best for the county overall and that is most important.

Supervisor Rogers stated that leadership is being able to take in new information and change your mind based on various factors. He appreciates the other Board members, Treasurer Oleson and his deputies for advocating for this and helping them to understand. He appreciates Oleson's commitment and has every bit of confidence and faith in him.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Meisheid to amend the offer pot to include the Treasurer's no wait inside appointment software purchase and move the \$18,754 savings into the Capital projects department of the General Fund to be considered for capital repairs and maintenance.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Running-Marquardt to allocate \$18,754 to the Capital Repair Budget.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve FY26 revenues in the amount of \$169,667,497 and expenditures in the amount of \$166,249,255 which reflects a 6.06 countywide levy rate.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed her appreciation for Budget and Finance and the time and work they've put into this budget.

Supervisor Rogers stated that the least they can do is thank Budget and Finance publicly. The work they do is interdependent on the Board and they help to make policy decisions. Budget and Finance are an invaluable piece in the decision making of the Board and they are blessed with the highest caliber and talent. It is an honor to work with them.

Adjournment at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Brown, Deputy Auditor

APPROVED BY:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors