

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026 10:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Running-Marquardt and Vice Chairperson Scheetz. Absent: Supervisor Meisheid (other county business). Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the minutes of February 16, 2026 as printed.

Supervisor Scheetz read a letter recognizing Ines Beltre as the Linn County Veteran of the Month for January 2026.

Julie Stow, Cedar Rapids Tourism Exec. Dir., gave a presentation on the organization's strategic plan. Stow discussed their accomplishments, upcoming events and conferences, as well as challenges faced by the organization. She also shared growth experienced through social media posts.

Supervisors Running-Marquardt and Scheetz thanked Stow for her work in bringing diverse programs to Cedar Rapids and Linn County, putting the area at the forefront of groups nationwide.

Lisa Powell, Human Resources Dir., discussed the ratified IBEW Assistant County Attorneys FY27 and FY28 Tentative Agreement. The only item open for this contract was wages, and she shared the wage modifications named.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the ratified IBEW Assistant County Attorneys FY27 and FY28 Tentative Agreement.

Powell then discussed the ratified AFSCME FY27 - FY31 Tentative Agreement. This contract covers the four large bargaining units of the County and the full contract was open. Powell touched on the biggest changes including a new pay model as a result of a compensation study, a transition from the traditional vacation/sick leave bank model to a short term/long term leave, a limited opportunity for flex time, and parental leave.

Running-Marquardt thanked Powell, the entire HR Department, and Linn County employees that serve on the bargaining unit for their work on the contract. She believes this is crucial to Linn County recruiting and retaining more applicants.

Supervisor Scheetz feels this is one of the most pro-worker bargaining agreements that any public sector has signed. He also appreciates Powell and the entire HR team and is very proud to support this contract.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the ratified AFSCME FY27 - FY31 Tentative Agreement.

Stephanie Lientz, Planning & Development, discussed a Resolution to set a public hearing date of March 9, 2026, at 10 a.m. for an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Linn County, Iowa, by amending provisions in Chapter 107, pertaining to adding gas-fired electric generating facilities as an allowable use in the Exclusive Use-Two (EU-2) zoning district.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to adopt Resolution 2026-2-30.

A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSAL TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE FOR ADDING GAS-FIRED ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES AS AN ALLOWABLE USE IN THE EXCLUSIVE USE-TWO (EU-2) DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Linn County Planning and Development Department presented the Linn County Board of Supervisors with a proposal to adopt an ordinance for adding Gas-Fired Electric Generating Facilities as an Allowable Use in the Exclusive Use-Two (Eu-2) District; and,

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Supervisors hereby finds that it is desirable to hold a public hearing to consider the proposal to adopt an ordinance for adding Gas-Fired Electric Generating Facilities as an Allowable Use in the Exclusive Use-Two (Eu-2) District, and that Linn County should publish a notice thereof as required by law.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Linn County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the proposal to adopt an ordinance for adding Gas-Fired Electric Generating Facilities as an Allowable Use in the Exclusive Use-Two (Eu-2) District on March 9, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Formal Board Room of the Linn County Public Service Center located at 935 2nd Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at which time any interested person may provide public comment on the proposed ordinance, and after hearing any and all public comments, the Board may proceed with the approval of the proposed ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors directs the publication of a notice of public hearing in accordance with Iowa Code Section 331.305.

PASSED AND APPROVED this February 23, 2026.

Elena Wolford, Asst. Co. Atty., discussed the submission of a petition to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources requesting a waiver of the January 31 filing deadline for Linn County's 2026 Construction

Evaluation Resolution (Master Matrix participation). This is a result of miscommunication during routine governmental transition rather than neglect or bad faith.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to authorize the Chair to sign a submission of a petition to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources requesting a waiver of the January 31 filing deadline for Linn County's 2026 Construction Evaluation Resolution (Master Matrix participation).

Cara Matteson, Sustainability Dir., discussed a contract between Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Linn County for a tree planting grant. This has previously been reviewed by legal with anticipation of starting this year and lasting two years. It would add trees to Linn County properties, and staff have already identified appropriate locations.

The Board will approve Wednesday.

Matteson then discussed a letter of support for Iowa Geologic Survey's Community Project Funding application to Expand Iowa's Groundwater Level Monitoring network to Protect Iowa's Water Supplies. This would be through a Community Project Funding request which is an annual appropriations process. They are looking for local support showing that this would be a benefit. It would look at expanding the groundwater well network within District 2, seeking funds of around one million dollars. Matteson shared an assessment of Iowa vs. other states' groundwater networks.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support for Iowa Geologic Survey's Community Project Funding application to Expand Iowa's Groundwater Level Monitoring network to Protect Iowa's Water Supplies.

Jessie Black, Admin. Specialist, on behalf of Darrin Gage, Dir. of Policy & Admin., discussed a public purpose statement for the use of public funds related to the February 24, 2026, Solid Waste Working Group Meeting. This would elaborate as to why lunch is being provided during the meeting.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Scheetz to approve the public purpose statement for the use of public funds related to the February 24, 2026, Solid Waste Working Group Meeting.

Public Comment: Kirsten Running-Marquardt, 3515 Field Stone Pl. SW, Cedar Rapids, wished Jessie Black a happy birthday, noting that her flexibility and willingness to be a representative of the Board gives the Supervisors the ability to do their jobs at a higher level. She means a lot professionally and personally.

Motion by Scheetz, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve payroll authorizations (detail is available upon request).

Adjournment at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
By: Ana Brunscheen, Executive Assistant

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors