



City Administrator & Staff Update

2023.05.05

- **Property Tax Legislation:** See the Legislative Updates from the Iowa League (Email). I have attached one summary on the topic (one perspective). I will forward more info as it comes through. There is still much discussion on exactly how hard this will hit cities across the state. Looking for an Iowa League analysis in the near future.
- **Nagrocki:** The plan is still to allow for 19 single family homes, but to apply for tax credits for 12 of the units. Old lot #19 on the corner of West Burlington Avenue and Pennington could be of use to the city for stormwater management.
- **Community Visioning:** Please see the attached schedule and minutes. TIF and infrastructure costs will be key points of discussion.
- **Complete Streets:** Please see the attached documents – 10 Elements of a Complete streets Policy and a Complete Streets Policy Framework. Like to bring forward a green and complete streets policy for council review.
- **Staff Meeting:** We resumed weekly staff meetings today (remotely). I have been able to work more out of my home office and hope to continue to progress.
- **Pool:** The pool at present has 9 hired lifeguards and needs 14 to fully open the pool. More to allow for absences and another “shift”. Kelly has reposted this opportunity and we have lifeguard training coming up shortly as well.
- **BNSF:** The permit for the Fourth of July has been signed and delivered.
- **IISC:** Thank you again for considering a partnership with IISC and the University of Iowa. We had a lot to consider from many worthy applicants, and the decision was not easy. After much deliberation, we selected Bondurant and Dubuque as partners for next year, and we are hoping to continue developing a partnership with West Burlington and Burlington for the following year. We think the joint effort from the two communities will be a fantastic partnership. The timing and unexpected budget challenges got in the way on the Burlington side, but they've indicated interest in continuing to develop the partnership. I know a stand-alone West Burlington partnership was a possibility (and maybe even a preference) for you, so I'm sorry the outcome for this year was not what you had hoped to hear. However, we hope that we can continue to work with you on setting up a future partnership. Additionally, we can consider opportunities for individual projects next year as they arise (we often have capacity for additional engineering projects, for example). I'd like to touch base in mid-summer, after getting through all the work of this

semester and learning more about what we'll have lined up for next year. If that's alright with you, you can expect to hear from me again around mid-July. **Travis Kraus**, Associate Professor, School of Planning & Public Affairs, Director, Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities

- I replied noting an interest in pursuing the stand-a-lone project, and of course, willing to do the whole program on our own or partner with Burlington if it makes for a better application, but that working with WB could have a huge impact on a community like ours that does not have some of the same resources, staffing, revenue, etc. that other cities do are participating. Great cities, but the impact could be huge if they were to bring a team down here. We will follow up and reconnect.
- **EMC:** Please see attached report. Everything is going well with the current flooding situation. Attached is an updated Situation Report as of this morning. Please advise if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks! Gina M. Hardin, IACEM, Coordinator, Des Moines County Emergency Management Agency
- **Social Media Posts:** Brad put together a post and video on the Pollinator Park/Trail and our sidewalk program.
- **Tax Abatement:** I noted that Burlington adopted a 10-year program with 7 years 100%, 3 years 90%. I will put information together for a work session.

IT (Newberry)

Police (Logan)

I spoke with Jeff Klein; former Major with Burlington Police Department and he is still interested in the Police Officer job. I will be setting up and interview, MMPI and get his fingerprints done next week. I would like to offer him the same opportunity that we offered Officer Chiprez.

Officer Chiprez is starting on Monday May 8th, working day shift.

I'm having DARE Graduation for Great River Christian School, here at City Hall next Tuesday at 600pm. They had an issue rise over at the school and not allowing anyone to enter the school so the next best option is to have it at City Hall so they kids can have family attend the Graduation. I only have 5 students this year and I will get everything set up for the Graduation.

Building/Fire (Ryan)

- **Nuisance:** Not exactly one but I'll put it in this category – had a business try putting in an asphalt driveway without a permit. Mike issued a "Stop Work" order on the contractor until a permit was issued and paid for.
- **Building Permits and Licenses:** Business license for the Gun Show was submitted and issued in the same day – Monday, May 1. Working on several permits that came in while attending training – one is for a new single-family residence over on Emerald. Reviewing plans for a business expansion at this time.

- Code Review - Looked at wheelchair ramp at the request of a property owner. He had one installed by company through the VA. I agreed that it wasn't large enough. He's replacing it.
- Liquor License Inspection: Uncle Ronnies and Star Mart.
- Code Review: Altorfer called. They had questions about expanding. I worked through that with them.
- Fire Dept –
 - Awaiting the door for Engine 3 to come in.
 - Did joint training with IAAAP. This is the first time in the history of the departments that anyone is aware of that we trained with each other. This will continue in the future.
 - Training in Indianapolis went well. Three of the guys took advantage of additional classes and learned RIT skills that we will be implementing in the near future. This is a required element at incidents. We have been in discussions with Burlington Fire about this. RIT is "Rapid Intervention Team", basically a highly trained group that rescue trapped or lost firefighters. We took a lot of time speaking to vendors about products that will help this program. Jesse and I also spent a lot of time focusing on cancer reduction methods and firefighter health. We took in a lot of vendor contacts regarding all those areas.
 - At the County meeting, April 24th, Burlington Fire Chief Trexel expressed his appreciation for the assistance given by West Burlington at the memorial service for their fallen firefighter, Ky Duttlinger.
 - County 911 Board had a meeting to discuss a radio study being conducted by True-North. This will be a 2-3-month project aimed at studying the current radio system throughout the county, looking for ways to improve it, if necessary, and suggestions on what upcoming infrastructure improvements will be. We are doing this to find the best way to develop our system moving forward, in order to provide the best communications for the safety of all our responders. This includes all law enforcement, fire and EMS services being studied.

Finance (Moore)

- The budget has been certified by the county.

Public Works (Brissey)

- Water lab
- Sewer lab
- Lift station rounds.
- Parks and Broadway trash and recycling
- Locates.
- Service trucks and Squad cars
- Sign maintenance

- Hauling brush
- Hauling concrete finds for back fill
- Patching
- Backhoe and dump truck training for new higher.
- Park clean up and maintenance and pool maintenance.
- Will are working in 400 block of Leffler Street 200 block of Broadway St on sidewalks.
- Working on putting pool back together

SITUATION REPORT

DES MOINES COUNTY, IOWA

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| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Incident Name: | 2023 Flood | Sit Rep #: | 04 |
| Sit Rep Version: | Update | Operational Period: | 5/03-05/2023 |
| Incident Type: | Flooding | Affected Jurisdictions: | All |
| EOC Activation Level: | Level A – Limited | EMA Coordinator: | Gina Hardin |
| Other Activated Centers: | SEOC | Incident Command: | N/A |
| Activated ESF's: | 1, 3, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15 | Date/Time Approved: | 5/03/2023 0945 |

General Situation:

The Des Moines County EOC is not activated. The Mississippi River will reach a flood crest in Burlington today, **May 3, 2023, at approximately 20.0 feet (currently 19.92')**. It will take approximately a week and half, possibly longer, before the Mississippi River in Burlington will be below major flood stage.

The Skunk River is up slightly (currently 6.93') due to the backwater flowing into it from the Mississippi River. However, it will remain well below its flood stage of 15 feet. The river gage is in Augusta, which is some miles away from where the Skunk River dumps into the Mississippi River. Therefore, the river is visually much higher than expected from the gage reading when crossing the Highway 61 bridge over the river.

Escalation of EOC activation level may rise as the event dictates. However, flood response plans are being followed along the levee system and the flood wall in riverside communities/areas. There are no unexpected areas of concern at this time.

Coordination with community partners is being done via email and phone currently.

Current Objectives:

1. Establish and maintain situational awareness for partners.
2. Assist partners with guidance, resources, and information as requested.
3. Identify current and future resources needed.
4. Track expenditures related to emergency protective measures.

Essential Elements of Information:

1. Current river level and future level predictions.
2. Road and area closures.
3. Resource needs and information gaps of partners and stakeholders.
4. Community partner and stakeholder priorities, strategies, and needs.

Resource Requests:

None currently.

Response / Recovery Activities:

Operations

The county EOC is not currently open but is monitoring operations. EMA will remain poised to provide operational and coordination support.

ESF 1 Transportation

Road closures include not being able to go completely down Sullivan Slough Road, Tama Road has signs up for alternating traffic due to water on the road, Riverfront Drive in Burlington for floodwall operations (map here: <https://www.burlingtoniowa.org/civicalerts.aspx?AID=779>), boat ramps are closed in some areas, cabin crossings remain open.

ESF 2 Communications

None.

ESF 3 Public Works

- Boat landings north of Burlington are closed with concrete barricades. Cabin crossings are not closed at this time.
- The Burlington North Bottoms (business) Levee put in flood panels at 19' flood level.
- The water treatment plant will put in flood gates if we reach a 21.5-foot flood level.
- Two Rivers Levee and Drainage Association is will begin patrolling levee system once per day.
- The city of Burlington flood wall is performing well. Drone phones received from Burlington Public Works were shared with the National Weather Service and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

ESF 4 Firefighting & EMS

No activity.

ESF 5 Emergency Management

EMA is monitoring river levels and coordinating with local partners on resource needs, areas of concern, etc.

ESF 6 Mass Care & Human Services

There is no anticipation of needing mass care shelters for residents. EMA is not expecting to request the Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program (IIAGP) activation at this time.

ESF 7 Logistics

No current need for additional resources.

ESF 8 Public Health & Medical Services

Des Moines County Public Health Department has tetanus vaccine available if needed by individuals.

ESF 9 Search & Rescue

No activity.

ESF 10 Hazardous Materials

No activity.

ESF 11 Agriculture, Natural Resources & Pets

No activity.

ESF 12 Energy Sector

No activity.

ESF 13 Public Safety & Security

Law enforcement is patrolling along the levee system north of Burlington.

ESF 14 Private Sector Coordination

Local downtown businesses are receiving some water in basements (this is not unusual with river flooding). Coordination continues with Chamber/Downtown Partners to keep them apprised of the situation and coordinating public information as necessary.

ESF 15 Public Information

EMA is sharing daily the flood brief recording/DSS packet along with a summary of daily call with local partners via email. **This will continue through Friday, May 5th. The National Weather Service Hydrologist has not yet decided whether to continue the daily briefings through the weekend.**

Currently each entity is sharing public information regarding closures and activities via their normal means of communications (social media, news releases/flashes, etc.).

All entities are receiving media inquiries (local and national) and are handling them individually.

Other

Once the river level drops, It is anticipated that HSEMD will request information from public entities on protective measure costs and damages that have been incurred.

Scheduled Events / Activities:

| | | | |
|-----------|------|----------------------------|---------|
| 5-03-2023 | 1400 | NWS daily flood brief | Virtual |
| 5-04-2023 | 1400 | NWS daily flood brief | Virtual |
| 5-05-2023 | 0830 | HSEMD Flood planning brief | Virtual |
| 5-05-2023 | 1400 | NWS daily flood brief | Virtual |
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

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|----------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill: | House File 718 | House Committee: | PASSED on 4/13/23 (25-0) |
| Committee: | Ways and Means | House Floor: | PASSED on 4/19/23 (93-1) |
| Floor Manager: | Rep. Kaufmann | Senate Floor: | PASSED on 5/2/23 (XX-XX) |
| Date: | May 2, 2023 | Governor: | |
| Staff: | Kristi Kiou (2-5290) | | |

Property Tax Reform Agreement

Division I—County Property Taxes and Budgets

See Division II (same thing happens here for counties as does for cities in Division II).

General Basic County Levy (\$3.50)/Rural Basic County Levy (\$3.95).

Levies not impacted: pioneer cemetery, debt service, EMS, LE, flood and erosion, natural disaster.

Division II—City Property Taxes and Budgets

Creates a new general maximum levy by combining levies with current general levy.

- Takes whatever you are currently levying for your \$8.10. (counties \$3.50/3.95)
- Adds whatever you are currently levying in most voted-in levies—15 in total (memorial building, civic center, emergency, etc.)
- This is your new combined maximum general levy.
- *Levies not impacted: municipal transit, aviation authority, insurance premiums, local emergency management, EMS, liability, debt service, IPERS, LE, police/fire retirement, and ag land.*

Then the bill then sets taxable value growth triggers to adjust the property tax rate down.

- If taxable valuation grows 6% or more -> growth rate is reduced by 3% and the levy is recalculated
- If taxable valuation grows 3 to 5.99% -> growth rate is reduced by 2% and the levy is recalculated
- If taxable valuation grows less than 3% -> no recalculations

The levy growth recalculation will occur for the FY 25-28 budgets. Divisions I and II sunset. After the 2028 budget.

Division III—Public Education and Recreation Tax Levy (PERL)

PERL restriction – No new (only). Current levies are grandfathered in.

Division IV—County Sheriff Fee Report

County Sheriff Fee Report eliminated.

Division V—Homestead Property Tax Credit

New 65 and over Exemption (not income restricted and in addition to regular homestead credit)

- 2024 – \$3,250

- 2025 – \$6,500

Division VI—Military Service Property Tax Exemption and Credit

Military service credit is currently an exemption that gets paid for in part by the state through a credit. This division increases the exemption amount for veterans and eliminates the state funding for the credit. \$1,852 (credit) becomes a \$4,000 (exemption).

Division VII—Property Tax Benefits and Incentives

Requires minimum assessment agreements on commercial abatements

Prospectively eliminates residential abatement just on the school levy (404-Urban Revitalization Areas)
Does not affect TIF, RIZ, etc.

Division VIII—Transit Funding

DART – allows for funding using increased franchise fees.

Division IX—County Auditor Valuation Reports

Requires an annual report to DOM that distinguishes valuations within a tax jurisdiction.

Identify new growth vs. organic growth due to assessment increases.

Division X—Local Government Budgets and Taxpayer Statements

For cities, counties, and school districts it sets up a new hearing within the budget process for information mailed to the taxpayer. These entities will have to deliver to property owners a standardized statement and show percentages of the budget each represents.

Budget deadlines are extended to April 30.

Division XI—Driver's Licenses and Nonoperator's Identification Cards

\$10 optional county convenience fee for DLs or IDs for non-county residents.

Division XII—Writing Fees

\$2 mandatory fee for title or transferring title of snowmobiles, ATVs, boats.

Division XIII—Bond Elections

Moves all elections for bonding to the general election date (every November).

Notice is to be sent to taxpayers.

Division XIV—County and City Financing

Debt Thresholds: Increases bonding threshold by 30%. (Can do more expensive projects without a vote).

In addition, for general obligation bonds, it will index values.