



Council Communication No. 97-306

SYNOPSIS –

On April 28, 1997, by Roll Call No. 97-1553, the City Council appointed the Finance Director as Interim City Treasurer. I now recommend that the City Council appoint the Finance Director as the City's Treasurer on a permanent basis.

FISCAL IMPACT –

Savings will result from the substitution of a lower-paid, new position in the Treasury Division of the Finance Department (job title and pay range to be determined) for the higher-paid, separate Treasurer position, which is proposed to be eliminated.

RECOMMENDATION –

Staff and the City's bond counsel recommend that the Finance Director be appointed City Treasurer.

BACKGROUND –

Under State Law, the City Council appoints the City's Treasurer. The long-time Treasurer recently retired, and on April 28, 1997, the City Council appointed the Finance Director as Interim Treasurer. Many cities across the country combine the position of Finance Director and Treasurer, thereby maintaining adequate internal controls by assigning day-to-day investment and cash management tasks to different individuals reporting to the combined position. The City has experimented with this structure for approximately one month and has found it successful.

The appointment of the Finance Director to the City Treasurer position will also make eligible the Finance Director/Treasurer for appointment to the Board of Trustees of the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa. Since the representative for this committee must be a city treasurer, and the City of Des Moines currently has only an interim treasurer, there is no one from the City of Des Moines serving on the Board at present.