



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date October 13, 2008

Agenda Item No. 67
Roll Call No. 08-
Communication No. 08-621
Submitted by: Larry Hulse, CD Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Petition to continue the existing Downtown Des Moines Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID) for an additional 5-years beginning July 1, 2009 pursuant to Chapter 386 of the Iowa Code.

SYNOPSIS:

Staff recommends City Council receive, file and refer the petition to the City Planning and Zoning Commission for preparation of an evaluative report on the merit and feasibility of continuing the existing Downtown Des Moines SSMID District and Operation Fund for an additional five years. The evaluative report is to be received by the City Council at the November 10, 2008 regular City Council meeting. The petition specifies a tax levy rate not to exceed \$2.00 per thousand dollars of taxable valuation and excludes residentially assessed properties.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On October 1, 2008, the City Clerk received a petition to continue the Downtown Des Moines Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District pursuant to Chapter 386 of the Iowa Code (see attached). The stated purposes of the SSMID are:

- Enhanced maintenance and cleaning of public spaces within the district including but not limited to sidewalk sweeping and power wash cleaning, graffiti removal, snow removal, etc.
- Services to enhance the safety of persons and property within the district including the “Goodwill Ambassador” program.
- Development and management activities in support of marketing, business retention and attraction.
- Capital, physical or other improvements designed to enhance the image and appearance of the District including but not limited to streetscape and lighting improvements, seasonal and holiday decorations, signage and banners, installation of seasonal plant materials and trees, etc.
- Improvement of the skywalk system, including actions related to maintenance, cleaning and security.

Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 386.3(3), “the City Council shall notify the city planning commission upon receipt of a petition. It shall be the duty of the city planning commission to make recommendations to the council in regard to the proposed district. The city planning commission shall, with due diligence, prepare an evaluative report for the council on the merit and feasibility of the project. The Council shall not hold its public hearings or take further action on the establishment of the district until it has received the report of the city planning commission. In addition to its report, the commission may, from time to time, recommend to the council amendments and changes relating to the project.”

Staff has placed the proposed continuance of the existing Downtown Des Moines SSMID on the agenda for the November 6, 2008 Plan and Zoning Commission meeting. It is anticipated that the evaluative report and recommendations of the Plan and Zoning Commission will be forwarded to the City Council for the November 10, 2008 regular meeting.

Percentages of support and/or opposition will be presented in the evaluative report from the Plan and Zoning Commission.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 6, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-284 and 06-285

Action: Alternate Two – The noticed boundary less any properties located north of Ingersoll Avenue and west of 15th Street, (generally properties located within the boundary of the existing Sherman Hill Neighborhood Plan). Moved by Hensley that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Motion Carried 7-0.

Final consideration of ordinance above, (waiver requested by City Manager), requires 6 votes. (Council Communication No. 06-057)

) Moved by Hensley that the rule requiring that an ordinance must be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, that the ordinance be placed upon its final passage and that the ordinance do now pass, #14,540. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Receive and file evaluative report from the Plan and Zoning Commission; set date of public hearing for consideration of the SSMID; hold public hearing and 3 readings of an ordinance to continue to the Downtown Des Moines SSMID.

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