



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

October 12, 2009

Agenda Item No. 30A

Roll Call No. 09-

Communication No. 09-703

Submitted by: Richard A. Clark, City Manager

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Downtown Des Moines Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID) Operating Agreement.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of an agreement to engage the Downtown Des Moines Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District to operate, manage and undertake SSMID services, improvements and activities intended to enhance the vitality of the downtown area. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This agreement extends a relationship which began in February, 1998 and extended in 2001 and 2005. The SSMID was created according to Iowa Code as a means to collect a special Operations Tax from downtown property owners to support a higher level of services within its boundaries. The City Council adopted an ordinance on February 23, 2009, providing for the continuation of the Operations Fund and the collection of the Operations Tax. The Operations Tax is limited by the ordinance to a rate of \$2.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value, although the tax rate has not exceeded \$1.00 in past years. Enhanced services provided include:

- Enhanced maintenance and cleaning of public spaces
- Services to enhance the safety of persons and property, including a “Goodwill Ambassador” program
- Development and management of activities for marketing, business retention and attraction,
- Capital or physical improvements
- Improvement of the skywalk system, including maintenance, cleaning, and security

The agreement requires that the SSMID subcontract with the Downtown Community Alliance to employ a full-time Director to supervise the management and operation and perform all administrative duties of the SSMID; subcontract with Greater Des Moines Partnership to perform SSMID’s financial and

fiduciary duties; and provide “clean and safe” services and activities as currently performed by Block-by-Block.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 23, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-316

Action: Continuing the Downtown Des Moines Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District, (SSMID). Moved by Hensley that this ordinance do now pass, #14,834. Motion carried 7-0.

Date: February 6, 2006

Roll Call Number: 06-284, 06-285

Action: Expanding the Downtown Des Moines Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District, and providing for the continued levy of an annual operation tax on property:

(B) 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.

(1) 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.

Date: January 26, 2004

Roll Call Number: 04-189, 04190

Action: To continue and expand the Downtown Des Moines Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District, (SSMID). (Council Communication No. 04-027) 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. 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, 14,311. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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