

Date February 5, 2018

**APPROVING REQUEST TO POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ASSIGN TAX SALE CERTIFICATES TO THE CITY, AUTHORIZATION FOR EXECUTION OF POLK COUNTY AGREEMENTS, APPROVAL OF CITY ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES THROUGH TAX DEED, AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST RELEASE OF PROPERTY TAXES AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, AND RELEASE OF ALL CITY LIENS AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa Code Section 446.19A permits cities to acquire tax sale certificates for abandoned property assessed as residential property or as commercial multifamily property or vacant residential lots at a tax sale without paying the taxes then due, to obtain the assignment of outstanding tax sale certificates by payment to the certificate holder the amount then due to redeem the certificate, and to give notice of expiration of the redemption period upon an expedited schedule, all for the purpose of encouraging the acquisition and rehabilitation of abandoned dwellings and lots; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Iowa Code Section 446.18, cities may also bid on tax sale certificates as public bidders in the annual Polk County Tax Sale Auction; and

**WHEREAS**, Polk County Public Works holds the tax sale certificates to two properties listed below, which properties are assessed and zoned residentially, previously determined by City Council to be public nuisance properties, and found by City staff to be vacant and in violation of the City's Building Code for a period in excess of six consecutive months or vacant lots in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code Section 446.19A; and

**WHEREAS**, Polk County Public Works has expressed an interest in working with the City to take ownership of these properties for rehabilitation or redevelopment resulting in neighborhood revitalization and new tax base, and City staff have been approached by neighborhood associations or other parties interested in rehabilitation or redevelopment if the special assessments and taxes are waived and additional subsidy or in-kind equity is invested; and

**WHEREAS**, City Community Development Department staff is recommending that the City execute contracts with the Polk County Board of Supervisors to take assignment of the tax sale certificates and ownership of the properties listed below, find partners for neighborhood revitalization and housing redevelopment or rehabilitation, release the City's special assessments and request the release of past due taxes and special assessments as such sites are suitable for redevelopment and a new tax base established.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:

1. The Community Development Director is authorized and directed to execute and submit an affidavit to the Polk County Treasurer requesting that the tax sale certificates for the parcels described below be assigned to the City of Des Moines, in accordance with Iowa Code Section 446.19A and 446.18:

Address: 1311 Laurel Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50314  
District/Parcel No.: 030/04527-000-000

Address: 1124 13<sup>th</sup> Street Des Moines, Iowa, 50314  
District/Parcel No.: 030/06000-000-000



Date February 5, 2018

- 2. The Legal Department is authorized and directed to begin the acquisition of said properties in accordance with Iowa Code Section 446.19A and 446.18, and the Finance Director is authorized and directed to issue checks to pay the recording costs and other costs certified by a City Department related to the acquisitions listed above.
- 3. The Community Development Director and his designee(s) are directed to work with the interested parties and neighborhood organizations on developer-initiated redevelopment proposal(s), or to distribute a Request for Proposals to locate developer(s) to acquire and renovate each property based on an approved rehabilitation plan, including evidence of financing, examples of similar work completed in the Des Moines area, and a binding agreement in a form satisfactory to the Legal Department, for use as single-family owner-occupied or rental housing.
- 4. Upon the City, or developer(s) as applicable, taking title to the above-listed properties:
  - (a) The special assessments levied by the City and pending against the properties shall be deemed released, and the City Engineer or the City Engineer's designee is hereby authorized and directed to notify County of the release of such special assessments.
  - (b) The Community Development Director or the Director's designee is hereby authorized and directed to seek the release of all other special assessments levied by Polk County, Des Moines Water Works, or other governmental entities pending against the properties.
  - (c) The Community Development Director is authorized and directed to request any and all property taxes, including accrued interest, be released by the Polk County Board of Supervisors.
  - (d) Any City judgment releases shall be limited only to the properties, and any such personal judgment(s) shall remain in full force and effect against the judgment debtor(s) and against any other real estate and personal property owned by such judgment debtor(s). The Legal Department is hereby authorized and directed to file the necessary pleadings to implement the limited release of judgment(s) as provided herein for insubstantial judgments, and to request Council approval of substantial judgments prior to filing such releases.
- 5. The Mayor is authorized to enter into agreements required by Polk County for the assignment of the certificates of purchase (tax sale certificates) related to the above-referenced properties, following approval as to form thereof by the Legal Department

(Council Communication No. 18-045)

FORM APPROVED:

*Glenna K. Frank*  
Glenna K. Frank, Assistant City Attorney

MOVED BY \_\_\_\_\_ TO ADOPT.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
BOESEN				
COLEMAN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
MANDELBAUM				
WESTERGAARD				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk