



**Roll Call Number**

25-1206

**Agenda Item Number**

24

**Date**

September 8, 2025

**SET HEARING FOR CONVEYANCE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY  
AT 930 THORNTON AVENUE TO GREATER DES MOINES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
FOR REHABILITATION OF HOUSING**

**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 further assign said certificates, all for the purpose of encouraging the acquisition and rehabilitation of abandoned dwellings and lots; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 12, 2023, by Roll Call No. 23-0834, the City Council approved acquisition of the tax sale certificate for the vacant and abandoned property locally known as 930 Thornton Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa ("Property") and began the process to take tax sale deed; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 29, 2024, the City of Des Moines distributed a request for letters of interest related to multiple properties, including 930 Thornton Avenue and Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity (GDMHH) was one of the respondents and the only nonprofit respondent to remain engaged; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 23, 2024, the City of Des Moines requested and was issued the tax sale deed for the Property by the Polk County Treasurer; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 2024, the City of Des Moines filed a 120 Day Affidavit for the Property with the Polk County Recorder; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 18, 2024, by Roll Call No. 24-1562, the City Council released all City liens and special assessments to encourage housing redevelopment; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 6, 2025, by resolution No. 30, the Polk County Board of Supervisors released all County liens, unpaid taxes, and unpaid special assessments to encourage housing redevelopment; and

**WHEREAS**, GDMHH submitted a proposal for the renovation of the property to restore its use as a single family, owner occupied home; and

**WHEREAS**, if approved, the proposed conveyance by the City to GDMHH will be governed by and subject to approval of a development agreement between GDMHH and the City of Des Moines, which agreement will be submitted to City Council for consideration concurrently with the public hearing on the sale; and

**WHEREAS**, deed restrictions containing single-family owner-occupancy requirements and compliance with the conditions of the development agreement will be included in the deed conveying the GDMHH.; and



Roll Call Number

251206

Agenda Item Number

24

Date September 8, 2025

WHEREAS, there is no known current or future public need for the Property proposed to be sold and the City will not be inconvenienced by the sale of said Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, that:

1. Following and subject to completion of the City of Des Moines, Iowa proposes to convey real property locally known as 930 Thornton Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, legally described below, to Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity in exchange for \$75,000 and in-kind consideration in the form of development of the property by rehabilitation and/or redevelopment for housing purposes:

LOT 17, WATROUS PARK, AN OFFICIAL PLAT, ALL NOW INCLUDED IN AND FORMING A PART OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, POLK COUNTY, IOWA, AND CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 6,912 SQUARE FEET.

2. A public hearing shall be held on September 29, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, in the Council Chambers, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive, 2nd Floor, Des Moines, IA 50309. At that time the City Council will consider the above described proposal and any other(s) submitted prior to or during the public hearing.
3. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to publish notice of the proposal and hearing in the form hereto attached, all in accordance with Section 362.3 of the Iowa Code.

Moved by Gatto to adopt.

Second by Voss.

FORM APPROVED:

/s/ Chas M. Cahill

Chas Cahill, Assistant City Attorney

#### CERTIFICATE

I, LAURA BAUMGARTNER, 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.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
BOESEN	✓			
SIMONSON	✓			
VOSS	✓			
COLEMAN	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
MANDELBAUM	✓			
GATTO	✓			
TOTAL	7			

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Connie Boesen

Mayor

Laura Baumgartner

City Clerk