



Roll Call Number

25-1316

Agenda Item Number

59

Date September 29, 2025

**HOLD 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 filled 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

25-1316

Agenda Item Number

59

Date September 29, 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.

WHEREAS, September 8, 2025, by Roll Call No. 25-1206, it was duly resolved by the City Council that the proposed conveyance of the property to Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity be set down for hearing on September 29, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, due notice of the proposal was published as provided by law in the Des Moines Register, setting forth the time and place for hearing on the proposal; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with City Council direction, those interested in this proposed conveyance, both for and against, have been given an opportunity to be heard with respect thereto and have presented their views to the City Council.

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

1. Upon due consideration of the facts and statements of interested persons, any and all objections to the proposed conveyance of the real property as described below are hereby overruled and the hearing is closed.
2. That the sale and conveyance of real property locally known 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 is hereby approved. The legal description of the property is as follows:

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.
3. That the Agreement between the City of Des Moines and Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity for Acquisition and Redevelopment of City Property, including the Offer to Purchase attached thereto, be and is hereby approved. The Neighborhood Services Director is hereby authorized and directed to sign said Agreement.
4. The Mayor is authorized and directed to sign the Offer, and Quit Claim Deed for the conveyance as identified above, and the City Clerk is authorized and directed to attest to the Mayor's signature and to forward the original of the Offer, said Agreement, and Quit Claim Deed, together with a certified copy of this resolution and of the affidavit of publication of the notice of this hearing, to the Real Estate Division of the Engineering Department.
5. Upon fulfillment of the conditions set forth herein above and in the acquisition agreement and Offer to Purchase, the Real Estate Division Manager is authorized and directed to close upon

**Roll Call Number**25-1316**Agenda Item Number**59**Date** September 29, 2025

the sale of the above-described property to Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity and to forward the original Quit Claim Deed, together with a certified copy of this resolution and of the affidavit of publication of the notice of this hearing, to the Polk County Recorder's Office for the purpose of causing these documents to be recorded.

6. Upon receipt of the recorded documents back from the Polk County Recorder, the Real Estate Division Manager shall mail the original of the Quit Claim Deed and copies of the other documents to the grantee.
7. Non-project related proceeds shall be used to support redevelopment expenses for costs associated with future properties acquired through tax sale certificate process: Neighborhood Services Department Budget Special Revenue, Nongrant NS046000 / 521035.

(Council Communication No. 25-355)

Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt.

Second by Gatto.

FORM APPROVED:

/s/ Chas M. Cahill

Chas Cahill, Assistant City Attorney

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

Connie Buesen

Mayor

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.

Laura Baumgartner

City Clerk