

TO: Michael C. Van Milligen, City Manager
FROM: Marie L. Ware, Leisure Services Manager
SUBJECT: Five Flags Civic Center Studies Review and Prior Actions Presentation
Work Session
DATE: January 25, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the presentation and information for the City Council work session Five Flags Civic Center Studies Review and Prior Actions Presentation on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

BACKGROUND

The City Council set September 8, 2020, as the vote date for the ballot referendum for the ballot language “Shall the City of Dubuque, Iowa, issue its bonds in an amount not exceeding the amount of \$74,340,000 for the purposes of deconstruction, construction, acquisition, improving, and equipping an expanded Five Flags Civic Center and the renovation and preservation of the historic Five Flags Theater, including accessibility enhancements to both?”

The Five Flags Civic Center Commission held a meeting on April 1, 2020 and voted unanimously to recommend the delay of the special election set by the City Council for September 8, 2020. The Commission at that meeting also decided to make a recommendation for a new election date in 2021 to be determined at a later commission meeting. The City Council at their April 6, 2020, meeting voted unanimously to postpone the referendum. This link provides the background from this meeting.

<https://cityofdubuque.novusagenda.com/AgendaPublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=11007&MeetingID=619>

The City Council at their July 6, 2020 meeting had an action item from City Manager Michael C. Van Milligen recommending the Mayor and City Council adopt postponing the referendum date to a date not certain and table until January 18, 2022. Council Members discussed concerns and options in terms of supporting an earlier date for a special election or postponing it, the uncertain impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local and state economies, projected city financing, and the impact on future

construction projects in general. The Council voted 5-2 to postpone the referendum to a date not certain and table until January 18, 2021. This link provides background from this meeting.

<https://cityofdubuque.novusagenda.com/AgendaPublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=11085&MeetingID=622>

DISCUSSION

The City Council during their annual goal setting session adopted for their Policy Agenda with the Five Flags Center: Direction and Funding as a 2020-2022 Top Priority.

The first study related to Five Flags Civic Center was presented to the City Council on July 2, 2018. There were two more subsequent studies with one built on information from the last. Since 2018 we have had several new City Council members and of course much time has passed.

This work session would start from the beginning and review each study and subsequent council actions that brought Five Flags Civic Center to bond vote language and setting the date of the election. Conventions, Sports and Leisure International was the consultant for the studies. Bill Krueger would also be present virtually during the work session and be available for questions related to the past studies.

ACTION REQUESTED

This memorandum is to provide the presentation and information for the City Council work session Five Flags Civic Center Studies Review and Prior Actions Presentation on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

cc: HR Cook, Five Flags Civic Center General Manager
Civic Center Commission Members