Members present: Mayor Dean O’Connor, Altoona
Council Member Bobbi Benz, Ankeny
Mayor Drew Merrifield, Carlisle
Council Member John Edwards, Clive
Council Member Chris Coleman, Des Moines
Council Member Tom Cope, Johnston
Council Member Curt Gause, Pleasant Hill
Council Member Robert Sarchet, Polk City
Supervisor Matt McCoy, Polk County
Mayor Bob Andeweg, Urbandale
Council Member David Russell, Urbandale
Council Member Kim Sacker, Van Meter
Council Member Courtney Clarke, Waukee
Council Member Russ Trimble, West Des Moines
Mayor Dave Burgess, Windsor Heights

Staff Present: Kandi Reindl-Sullivan, Asst. to the City Manager, Des Moines

Guests Present: Art Witmack, Taxpayers Assn. of Iowa
Dan Stalder, Iowa League of Cities
Jen Schulte, Governmental Affairs Director, Des Moines
Melissa O’Neil, Central Iowa Services and Shelter
Shelly Watkins, Central Iowa Services and Shelter

Approval of the November 12, 2019 minutes were moved for approval by Drew Merrifield and seconded by Dean O’Connor. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
MAC PRIORITIES

AirBnBs

Curt Gause presented on the attached powerpoint and handout.

Questions:

Dean O’Connor – How do you feel about Pleasant Hill’s ordinance?

Curt Gause – I feel it makes the residences happy, but we know there are some that are still flying out of the radar.

Drew Merrifield – A commercial fee would be more than a residential?

Curt Gause – Potentially. If we make them too restrictive, does it make them not pursue a conditional use permit?

Drew Merrifield – on the commercial one, does that mean they need to adhere to commercial fire regulations?

Curt Gause – Yes.

Tom Cope – How long is a short-term rental? Is that defined?

Chris Coleman – Right now, it’s 30 days. If it’s more than 30 days, a rental certificate would need to be obtained.

Tom Cope – Take Legislators for instance. Are they covered by this?

Matt McCoy – I think most of them seek short term leases, but a lot of them stay in private homes.

Tom Cope – We need to be aware of these regulations on our visiting legislators.

Russ Trimble - We do allow Airbnbs, but they have to be owner occupied. We actually had a resident who approached us because of an Airbnb next door to them and how livid he was.

Once Des Moines finalizes their ordinance, we will come back with their tweaks.
Chris Coleman – This started with our update of our zoning code and I do think this is like a number of things MAC has talked about and if we’re not prepared with a model ordinance, we can’t put any teeth into it. I like the Class idea and having to get approval from the Zoning Boards of Adjustment (ZBAs). It’s been a long road, but we are getting there. Not everyone is going to support this. People like upgrades to houses, but others think these are taking away from affordable housing.

David Burgess – How do we assure hotel/motel tax is collected?

Curt Gause – If they have the proper certificate, they will be collecting the hotel/motel tax.

Russ thanked Curt for the presentation and Des Moines for their ordinance and it could be a model ordinance for the metro area. We have some young haters that don’t want to see them banned. One Legislator took interest in Des Moines’ ordinance because they have a family member who has several rental properties in Des Moines and there may be a bill introduced pre-empting Des Moines’ ordinance.

Curt Gause – Those that currently own Airbnb’s welcome the regulations to get the bad actors to follow the rules.

Legislative Working Group

Tom Cope presented on the attached handout.

Questions:

John Edwards – What is the opportunity to remove the cap on hotel/motel tax?

Tom Cope – There isn’t much effort, but there is effort around the I-Will sales tax.

John Edwards – If you go to other metro cities, their hotel/motel tax is much higher and generates more money.

Tom Cope – I think the Legislators would oppose that, especially since the rural legislators would have to pay that increase while in Des Moines for the legislative session.

Dean O’Connor – A lot of other entities are wanting to grab part of that pie such as the water trails group and DART.
Robert Sarchet – We were mostly defensive last year. Do you see us being defensive again? What about the backfill and property taxes?

Tom Cope – We have to be very careful on the property tax. Jake Chapman has some concerns on issues such as abatement. It's always challenging to draft a list like this and then in February, we have to change gears.

Russ Trimble – The actions taken by the Des Moines Schools and the sports arena is going to generate discussion around property taxes.

Chris Coleman – It was a very wise investment sharing this arena with five schools, and partnering with Drake for maintenance. There was zero cost for the land and this was a lawful use of the PPEL.

Tom Cope – We will fine tune this document for you to share with your Legislators.

Dan Stalder shared the Iowa League of Cities legislative priorities – see attached

**Stormwater Mitigation Strategies**

Updates will be provided in early 2020

**Nominating Committee**

Chris Coleman made the motion to have Bob Andeweg, Tom Cope and Frank Cownie as the nominating committee. Dave Burgess seconded the motion.

**Recognition of departing members**

Chris Coleman. Des Moines
Kim Sacker, Van Meter

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.