

**Council Study Committee
September 10, 2012
Minutes**

Members Present: Pete Berry, John Parker, Pam Pepper, John Sirianni and Mayor Bresnan. Absent: Eric Mathieu and Greg Marchant

Staff Present: Jean Furler and Chuck Burgin.

1. **Tax Abatement:** Jean Furler and Chuck Burgin reviewed the history of the city's tax abatement program dating back to March 1, 1989 when first approved through the current ordinance scheduled to expire January 31, 2013. The current program includes:

Residential (up to \$75,000 per Iowa Code 404.3A) and Commercial abatement:

Year 1	80%
Year 2	60%
Year 3	40%
Year 4	20%

Real estate improvements must increase the actual value of the property by at least 10%. Staff recommended extending the program for five more years to January 31, 2018. Questions included what are other cities in the metro providing regarding abatement? Is Indianola competitive with those cities? Staff will survey metro cities to determine if they provide abatement to their citizens.

The city council will set a public hearing at the September 17, 2012 meeting. The public hearing (and resolution) will be held October 15, 2012.

A motion was made by Sirianni and second by Pepper to go into closed session to discuss the purchase of real estate for a park at 6:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Berry and second by Parker to go out of closed session at 6:46 p.m.

The committee adjourned on a motion by Parker and second by Sirianni at 6:47 p.m.