



City Council Information Packet

May 21, 2026

Council Tentative Meeting Schedule

IP1. City Council Tentative Meeting Schedule

Miscellaneous

IP2. Memo from Assistant City Manager - Deer Management Program

IP3. Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker I - Streets

IP4. Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker II - Streets

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Draft Minutes

IP8. Climate Action Commission: May 4



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

May 21, 2026

City Council Tentative Meeting Schedule

Attachments: [City Council Tentative Meeting Schedule](#)



City Council Tentative Meeting Schedule

Subject to change

May 21, 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday, June 2, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Tuesday, June 16, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Tuesday, July 14, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Monday, July 20, 2026	4:30 PM	Joint Entities Meeting Hosted by Johnson County Brd of Supervisors	TBD
Tuesday, August 4, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Tuesday, August 18, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Tuesday, September 1, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Tuesday, September 15, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Tuesday, October 6, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Monday, October 19, 2026	4:30 PM	Joint Entities Meeting Hosted by the Iowa City Community School Dist	TBD
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Monday, November 2, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Tuesday, November 17, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street
Tuesday, December 8, 2026	4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Work Session Formal Meeting	City Hall, Emma J. Harvat Hall 410 E. Washington Street



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

May 21, 2026

Memo from Assistant City Manager - Deer Management Program

Attachments: [Memo from Assistant City Manager - Deer Management Program](#)



CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

Date: May 21, 2026
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Kirk Lehmann, Assistant City Manager
Re: Deer Management Program

Introduction

The City of Iowa City developed its deer management program in response to resident concerns about deer overpopulation and its associated impacts to the community. In 2018, surveys indicated the urban deer population had tripled since 2010 when the City discontinued regular professional sharpshooting operations. In response, City Council adopted a Deer Management Plan in 2019 which included public education, one year of professional sharpshooting, and four years of annual urban bow hunting. The plan was approved by the Iowa Natural Resource Commission (NRC).

In 2024, City Council adopted an updated 5-year plan that continues public education and annual urban bow hunting efforts through 2029. While the NRC declined the City's request for professional sharpshoot in June 2024, the plan allows the City to request authorization for one professional sharpshoot between 2026 and 2029, subject to NRC approval.

On May 14, 2026, the City requested a professional sharpshoot, which the NRC denied. Staff are now evaluating next steps within the framework of the approved Deer Management Plan.

Background

Available data indicates the deer population in portions of Iowa City remain well above the City's target density of 25 deer per square mile. Based on feedback from the NRC, the City enhanced its data collection efforts, including targeted aerial drone surveys in northern Iowa City where deer-related concerns are most significant. The 2026 drone survey identified nearly 560 deer in a 4.8 square mile area, suggesting an estimated density of 116 deer per square mile and a 16% increase from the previous year's survey. In addition, regular helicopter surveys conducted in partnership with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also reflect that deer populations in northern Iowa City exceed target densities.

Elevated deer populations have generated growing resident concern. In 2025, the City received more than 90 deer-related emails, calls, and complaints, the highest number since tracking began in 2020. Common concerns include traffic hazards, landscaping and property damage, Lyme disease, and deer becoming increasingly acclimated to urban areas. Residents report regularly seeing large herds of deer in developed areas and note that deer-related issues are the worst they have seen.

City data similarly reflects increasing interactions with deer. In 2025, the Iowa City Police Department (ICPD) responded to 35 calls for service involving deer-vehicle collisions with associated damage estimates of more than \$142,400. However, because many minor accidents are not reported, Public Works also began tracking deer carcass removals in 2024 to address the gap. In 2025 alone, staff recovered 104 deer carcasses, a 20% increase over the same period in 2024. ICPD also reported 30 incidents in 2025 resulting in humane dispatch of injured or incapacitated deer. This data reinforces other observations regarding deer populations.

Current Efforts

The City's Deer Management Plan uses both lethal and non-lethal strategies to reduce deer populations and minimize community impacts. Lethal depredation activities require NRC approval.

The City's most recent sharpshoot occurred in the winter of 2019-2020 which removed around 500 deer. Meat from harvest deer was tested for safety by the DNR, processed, and donated to local food pantries. Subsequent requests for professional sharpshooting in 2024 and 2026 were not approved by the NRC. Feedback from the NRC indicated a desire to see additional data, as well as continued expansion of the urban bow hunt with additional outreach to and participation from hunters.

The City's urban bow hunt program launched in 2020 is also an important component of City efforts. The program only harvested 3 deer in its first season but has steadily grown by refining rules, expanding access to public property, increasing outreach, and incorporating feedback from the DNR and hunters. During the 2025-2026 season, 22 participating hunters harvested 62 deer, an increase of 41% from the prior year. The City continues to evaluate opportunities to further expand the hunt, including identification of suitable properties targeted in areas with high deer concentrations.

In addition, the City maintains a range of non-lethal management efforts. These include sharing maps and informational materials, providing annual reports to Council, enforcing the City's ban on intentional deer feeding, and providing outreach to limit neighborhood conflicts with deer.

Next Steps

Despite substantial progress, current efforts are not adequate to reduce the deer density to targeted levels. Staff will continue implementing the plan through 2029 while acting on feedback from the NRC to continue enhanced levels of data collection and expand and refine the urban bow hunt. Over the long term, the City's primary deer depredation strategy will be urban bow hunting. However, data indicates that a targeted population reduction may ultimately be necessary to reduce deer numbers to a level that can be sustainably maintained through hunting. Staff will explore a future request for professional sharpshooting within the plan timeframe, but it will require approval from the NRC.

Residents wishing to provide feedback about deer in Iowa City can find contact information for the NRC at www.iowadnr.gov/NRC. Additional information on the City's deer management program, including annual reports and deer-related resources, is available at www.icgov.org/deer. Questions about the City's deer management program may be directed to deermanagement@iowa-city.org.



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

May 21, 2026

Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker I - Streets

Attachments: [Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker I - Streets](#)



CITY OF IOWA CITY

410 East Washington Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1826
(319) 356-5000
(319) 356-5009 FAX
www.icgov.org

May 14, 2026

TO: The Honorable Mayor and the City Council

RE: Civil Service Entrance Examination – Maintenance Worker I – Streets

Under the authority of the Civil Service Commission of Iowa City, Iowa, I do hereby certify the following named person(s) as eligible for the position of Maintenance Worker I – Streets.

Randy Hooks

Iowa City Civil Service Commission


Melissa Jensen



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

May 21, 2026

Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker II - Streets

Attachments: [Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker II - Streets](#)



CITY OF IOWA CITY

410 East Washington Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1826
(319) 356-5000
(319) 356-5009 FAX
www.icgov.org

May 14, 2026

TO: The Honorable Mayor and the City Council

RE: Civil Service Entrance Examination – Maintenance Worker II – Streets

Under the authority of the Civil Service Commission of Iowa City, Iowa, I do hereby certify the following named person(s) as eligible for the position of Maintenance Worker II – Streets.

Antonio Ochoa-Mclver

Iowa City Civil Service Commission



Melissa Jensen



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

May 21, 2026

Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker II - Refuse

Attachments: [Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker II - Refuse](#)



CITY OF IOWA CITY

410 East Washington Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1826
(319) 356-5000
(319) 356-5009 FAX
www.icgov.org

May 14, 2026

TO: The Honorable Mayor and the City Council

RE: Civil Service Entrance Examination – Maintenance Worker II – Refuse

Under the authority of the Civil Service Commission of Iowa City, Iowa, I do hereby certify the following named person(s) as eligible for the position of Maintenance Worker II – Refuse.

1. Leonardo Lechuga
2. Jake Linnell

Iowa City Civil Service Commission



Melissa Jensen



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

May 21, 2026

Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker III - Water Distribution

Attachments: [Civil Service Entrance Examination - Maintenance Worker III - Water Distribution](#)



CITY OF IOWA CITY

410 East Washington Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1826
(319) 356-5000
(319) 356-5009 FAX
www.icgov.org

May 14, 2026

TO: The Honorable Mayor and the City Council

RE: Civil Service Entrance Examination – Maintenance Worker III – Water Distribution

Under the authority of the Civil Service Commission of Iowa City, Iowa, I do hereby certify the following named person(s) as eligible for the position of Maintenance Worker III – Water Distribution.

Zachary Knoop

Iowa City Civil Service Commission



Melissa Jensen



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

May 21, 2026

Civil Service Entrance Examination - Mass Transit Operator

Attachments: [Civil Service Entrance Examination - Mass Transit Operator](#)



CITY OF IOWA CITY

410 East Washington Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1826
(319) 356-5000
(319) 356-5009 FAX
www.icgov.org

May 14, 2026

TO: The Honorable Mayor and the City Council

RE: Civil Service Entrance Examination – Mass Transit Operator

Under the authority of the Civil Service Commission of Iowa City, Iowa, I do hereby certify the following named person(s) as eligible for the position of Mass Transit Operator.

1. Abraham Acosta
2. Matthew Peters

Iowa City Civil Service Commission


Melissa Jensen



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

May 21, 2026

Climate Action Commission: May 4

Attachments: [Climate Action Commission: May 4](#)

**IOWA CITY CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION
MAY 4 – 4:00 PM – FORMAL MEETING
EMMA J. HARVAT HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Anderson, Emma Bork, Alexandra Buchanan, John Clayton, Zach Haralson, Cole Kruse, Nadja Krylov, Wim Murray, Katherine Peterson, Brinda Shetty

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Grimm

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Gardner, Diane Platte

OTHERS PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER:

Haralson called the meeting to order at 4:00.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 6, 2026 MINUTES:

Clayton moved to approve the minutes, Bork seconded, and the motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Action items from last meeting (staff):

- Gardner shared that the cost associated with a Pearl report is for realtors, not homeowners, and it is for the marketing package only. The Pearl white paper states that preliminary information is drawn from publicly available data. Regarding Pearl competitors, staff will revisit the conversation with the Remodelers Council to ask for their preferences and bring that information back to Commission.
- New benchmark has been set to revisit and review the HERS incentive program when it reaches a 50% adoption rate of new homes built.

Division name updated: Gardner shared the division name will be updated to Sustainability and Innovation as a procedural matter to better align with national practices. The Commission will still be called the Climate Action Commission, and the work of the office will remain the same.

Upcoming events:

- Bike to Work Week Breakfast (May 11, 7-9 a.m., Chauncey Swan Ramp)
- Solar Power Hour (May 26, 5:30 p.m., Big Grove Brewery).
- Webinar with Anna Zivarts, author of *When Driving is Not an Option* (May 14, 3-4 p.m. [registration link online](#))
- Bike In Beats fundraiser of the Bike Library is looking for volunteers on June 13.
- Other events in the community (Commissioners): none

OLD BUSINESS:

Neighborhood Energy Blitz Recap

- Gardner thanked Haralson and Peterson for volunteering at this year's event and reported more than 150 homes were reached, and 33 pounds of batteries and 140 pounds of light bulbs were collected. Peterson and Haralson offered their perspectives on the experience.
- Gardner asked commissioners for thoughts on swapping the May meeting for an experience volunteering for the Energy Blitz. Commissioners indicated general support. Clayton noted that a Blitz volunteer role with less walking would be helpful.

Update on FY27 Climate Action Grants

- Gardner invited committee members to share their experiences. Buchannon mentioned two noteworthy projects: a heat pump water heater for a restaurant on Linn St. and a solar-powered coffee roaster. Peterson reported learning a lot and appreciated the variety of projects. Gardner asked if the cover sheet was helpful; Buchannon noted it was helpful for jogging memory.
- Gardner reported more projects were able to be awarded funding this year, in alignment with one of the priorities identified by the Commission. The funding for climate action grants will be coming from the Local Option Sales Tax this year.

Informational update on Grow Solar East Central Iowa group buy

- Gardner noted additional Solar Power Hours in neighboring communities and a website for additional information – growsolar.org/ECL. Climate Action staff are working with ICAAR (Iowa City Area Association of Realtors) to offer a training on how to sell a home with solar. In the last Grow Solar group buy, a majority of potential customers who declined to install solar arrays reported that the payback period was not short enough. By better equipping realtors to sell homes with solar panels, it may help grow consumer confidence that even if they move before the solar array reaches its payback period the homeowner can still recoup the value of the investment in the sale price of the home.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020-2025 Impact Report on Climate Action activities

- Gardner explained some actions will not show up as metrics in a greenhouse gas inventory, so this report helps make invisible impacts more visible. The Impact Report is meant to work in tandem with the Reprioritized Climate Action Plan, and it offers a public-facing document with key program outcomes that other communities interested in replicating the programs can access. Commissioners were asked to note anything that seems to be missing from the report.
- Regarding the Whole Home Retrofit Program, Clayton asked if it is for apartment complexes. Gardner explained it is for single-family homes. Haralson asked if there are lessons learned from the pilot. Gardner noted landlords are attracted to the idea of installing new windows; conversations about windows are a bridge to conversations about heat pumps and insulation. Staff are considering bringing in a home energy rater as a neutral third party to make recommendations in the next iteration of the program if it continues beyond the pilot effort.

- Regarding EV charging at multifamily dwellings, Peterson asked if there have been conversations about who pays the electrical bill for charging EVs. Gardner responded affirmatively and noted that most charging sessions cost less than \$.50, so there are cases in which it costs less for the landlord to absorb the electricity cost than take on the added expense of software to track usage and charge for electricity. Clayton asked about apps that charge users for EV charging. Gardner explained that ChargePoint is an example of such an app, but it charges many thousands a year for the software on its devices to support the service. Murray noted that submetering is not allowed.
- Regarding the Reusable Container grant program, Haralson asked about uptake. Gardner noted some cross-pollination between Climate Action Grant awardees and the Reusable Container Grant program.
- Regarding the Bike and Ped Count, Peterson asked whether double counting might occur. Gardner explained that data points were tied to intersections rather than individuals, so if a commuter crossed both streets at an intersection they were counted twice and this was preferred so as to understand the traffic on each street.
- Regarding Adaptation projects, Gardner will share with Commissioners the NYTimes article about the Iowa Flood Center. Clayton asked if City ordinances could reduce burdens for residents to plant pocket prairies. Peterson asked about outreach to HOAs that may have stricter regulations for pocket prairies, and Gardner will check on that.

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

- none

RECAP:

Action items for next meeting:

- Gardner will send Bike In Beats volunteering invitation, NYTimes article, and information on HOAs and pocket prairies.

Confirmation of next meeting time and location:

- Monday, June 1, 4-5:30 p.m. in City Manager's Conference Room

Commissioners thanked Bork, who is graduating, and wished her well.

ADJOURNMENT:

Anderson moved to adjourn, Bork seconded, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned 5:34.

CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION
 ATTENDANCE RECORD
 2025-26

NAME	TERM EXP.	5/5/25	6/2/25	8/4/25	9/8/25	10/6/25	11/10/25	12/1/25	1/5/26	2/2/26	3/2/26	4/6/26	5/4/26
Michael Anderson	12/31/2026	X	X	O/E	X	X	X	X	X	X	O/E	X	X
Emma Bork	12/31/2027	X	O/E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alexandra Buchanan	12/31/2027									X	X	X	X
John Clayton	12/31/2028								O/E	X	O/E	X	X
Jamie Gade	12/31/2025	X	X	X	O/E	X	X	X	*	*	*	*	*
Ben Grimm	10/31/2026	O/E	X	X	X	X	O/E	O/E	X	O/E	X	O/E	O/E
Zach Haralson	12/31/2026	X	X	X	O/E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cole Kruse	12/31/2028								X	X	X	X	X
Nadja Krylov	12/31/2027	X	X	X	X	O/E	X	O/E	X	X	X	O/E	X
Katherine Peterson	12/31/2028								X	X	X	X	X
Wim Murray	MidAmerican Rep	O/E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	O/E	X
Michelle Sillman	12/31/2025	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	*	*	*	*	*
Brinda Shetty	UI Rep	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	O/E	X	X
Angie Smith	12/31/2025	X	O/E	O/E	X	X	X	X	*	*	*	*	*
Robert Traer	12/31/2027	X	X	X	X	X	X	O/E	*	*	*	*	*

KEY: X = Present
 O = Absent
 O/E = Absent/Excused
 NM= No Meeting
 * No longer on Commission