Arguments I Have Heard for the Petition

- The Council lacks power in the current system.
- This is just a return to what existed before the Council-Manager System was adopted by vote.
- This does nothing more than give the people a right to vote.
- This just changes the city manager form of government to a “city administrator model” and “retains most of that authority with the Mayor.”
- The City Manager would continue as a City Administrator.

I believe all these statements are false.

What Happens if the Referendum Passes and is Implemented?

Is there a Manager? No.

Is there an Administrator? No. Not without the Council deciding to create it AND deciding what the job will be AND hiring someone.

Does the power automatically go to the Mayor? No. The Council must organize the government of the City. The Council can keep power, give power or fight with the Mayor.

Who develops the Budget? Either the Part-Time Council or the Part-Time Mayor would have to project each line of revenue and expenditure for the next year or give the Administrator the power of a Manager.

Who manages the City day to day? Council would have to decide.

Who plans and drives major projects? The Council would have to decide.

Who works with developers considering an investment? The Council would have to decide.

Who issues building permits? The Council would have to decide.

What Happens if the Referendum Passes and is Implemented?

Human Resources is a different world today.

Who is responsible for hiring, firing, discipline and investigations? The Council would have to decide. If there is no Administrator, the Council and/or Part-Time Mayor would be responsible for following employment law and negotiating and following the union contract as well as managing benefits.

Termination, for instance, move to slow, you're open to sabotage. Move too fast, involve too many people, make a mistake…get sued or a Union grievance. When potential illegal activity is involved, do you want to wait for the Council to meet and hope no one says the wrong thing?

Some might remember an employee situation that had to be handled quickly and properly. That situation was resolved professionally in under 48-hours. No complaint. No lawsuit. No Union Grievance.

Council Power Today:

The Council controls local codes, budget, finances and policies. The Manager works for the Mayor and Council.

1) The Code – Within the limitations of state and federal law, the Council has complete ability to draft laws for the City. The City has around 800 pages of Code that govern the City.
   - City Code governs everything from water and sewer rates to parking restrictions.
   - Every Council member can bring any change they choose to the Council directly or to the Chair of the Ordinance Committee for consideration.
   - No one can write laws for the City except the Council.
2) The Finances – Every expenditure made by the City comes under the oversight of the council.
   - This week that is 15 pages of detailed financial information to be approved.
   - It is true that some expenditures have already been made but, given that the Council also controls the employment of the Manager, he or she has to follow their will.
3) The Employment of the City Manager – It only requires a majority vote to fire the Manager

Council Power Today:

The Council controls local codes, budget, finances and policies. The Manager works for the Mayor and Council.

4) The Expenditures Outside the Budget – Unplanned expenditures outside the budget process that exceed the Budget must be approved by the Council in advance.
5) The Policy – Policies like the employee handbook are developed by the Council.
6) The Contracts – New contracts and projects are approved by the Council before being signed by the Mayor or Manager.
7) The Budget – The Manager prepares and presents the Budget to the Council. The Council has the power to amend anything in the Budget. In fact, no budget can be approved without a majority vote of the Council.

The Council Already Has Complete Control of the Budget:

This is one of 14 pages of detail the Council goes through and can change in the Budget Process and every quarter (or whenever the Mayor and Council want to).

Type	Account	Account Title	2024-25 Projected	2025-2026 Budget	6 Month Update	9 Month Update	Final Update	Final Changes	2026-27 Budget	Comment
Revenu	01-10-3110	Corporate tax	(31,463.36)	(36,302.73)	(36,302.73)	$ (36,302.73)	$ (36,033.12)	$ (36,033.12)	$ (45,376.86)	NUMBERS (IN PARENTHESES ARE REVENUE
Revenu	01-10-3130	Utility tax	(88,992.50)	(88,992.50)	(88,992.50)	$ (88,992.50)	$ (88,000.00)	$ (88,000.00)	$ (88,000.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3210	Liquor licenses	(35,300.00)	(36,002.50)	(36,002.50)	$ (36,002.50)	$ (27,742.00)		$ (27,742.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3260	Cigarette licenses	(300.00)	(400.00)	(400.00)	$ (400.00)	$ (400.00)		$ (400.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3270	Coin operated machines	(25,950.00)	(25,950.00)	(25,950.00)	$ (25,950.00)	$ (27,165.00)		$ (27,165.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3280	Restaurant license	0.00	-	-	$ -	$ (1,500.00)		$ (1,500.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3290	Cannabis license	(42,396.36)	(75,000.00)	(75,000.00)	$ (75,000.00)	$ (75,000.00)		$ (75,000.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3300	Building permits	(18,000.00)	(5,000.00)	(5,000.00)	$ (2,500.00)	$ (5,030.00)	$ (5,030.00)	$ (5,030.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3410	State income tax	(264,914.00)	(265,000.00)	(265,000.00)	$ (265,000.00)	$ (265,000.00)		$ (265,000.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3420	Personal property replacement	(21,000.00)	(20,000.00)	(20,000.00)	$ (20,000.00)	$ (20,000.00)		$ (20,000.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3440	Sales tax	(792,252.78)	(819,253.00)	(962,628.00)	$ (962,628.00)	$ (970,984.18)	$ (970,984.18)	$ (970,984.18)	
Revenu	01-10-3441	Non-home rule sales tax	0.00	-	-	$ -	$ -		$ -	
Revenu	01-10-3450	State use tax	(51,015.60)	(50,000.00)	(15,000.00)	$ (15,000.00)	$ (13,350.00)		$ (13,350.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3530	Animal pickup fees	0.00	-	-	$ -			$ -	
Revenu	01-10-3550	Liquor comm. Fines	0.00	-	-	$ -	$ (350.00)		$ (350.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3560	Cannabis taxes	(406,302.49)	(528,193.24)	(555,798.00)	$ (555,798.00)	$ (587,739.86)	$ (587,739.86)	$ (587,739.86)	
Revenu	01-10-3810	Interest income	(4,741.00)	(4,000.00)	(4,000.00)	$ (7,000.00)	$ 7,000.00		$ 7,000.00	
Revenu	01-10-3820	Rental income	(7,500.00)	(7,500.00)	(7,500.00)	$ (7,500.00)	$ (7,500.00)		$ (7,500.00)	
Revenu	01-10-3830	Donations	0.00						$ -	
Revenu	01-10-3890	Miscellaneous income	(68,940.00)	(65,000.00)	(65,000.00)	$ -	$ (1,805.00)	$ (1,805.00)	$ (40,000.00)	
Transfe	01-10-3990	Interfund operating transfer	(90,000.00)	(90,000.00)	(90,000.00)	$ (90,000.00)	$ (90,000.00)		$ (90,000.00)	
Expendi	01-10-4110	City manager	110,880.00	122,880.00	122,880.00	$ 122,880.00	$ 122,880.00		$ 127,583.33	
Expendi	01-10-4210	Regular employees	114,053.63	117,994.70	117,994.70	$ 117,994.70	$ 117,994.70		$ 122,165.00	
Expendi	01-10-4230	Overtime	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,396.23		$ 2,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-4300	Elected officials pay	17,708.36	17,055.00	17,055.00	$ 17,055.00	$ 19,000.00		$ 19,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-4510	Health insurance	75,756.00	80,859.35	72,500.00	$ 78,800.00	$ 78,564.60		$ 82,700.00	5% Increase Estimate
Expendi	01-10-4530	Unemployment insurance	0.00	-	-	$ -	$ -			
Expendi	01-10-4610	Social security contribution	0.00	-	-	$ -	$ -			
Expendi	01-10-4620	Medicare contribution	0.00	-	-	$ -	$ -			
Expendi	01-10-4630	Retirement contribution - IMRF	0.00	-	-	$ -	$ -			
Expendi	01-10-5110	Maintenance service - building	2,255.77	2,500.00	2,500.00	$ 4,000.00	$ 4,000.00		$ 2,500.00	
Expendi	01-10-5320	Engineering services	70,000.00	60,000.00	75,000.00	$ 90,000.00	$ 94,000.00	$ 94,000.00	$ 94,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-5330	Legal services	58,000.00	55,130.00	80,000.00	$ 75,000.00	$ 65,000.00	$ 65,000.00	$ 65,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-5375	Recording and filing fees	0.00							
Expendi	01-10-5390	Codification services	3,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00		$ 3,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-5440	Contractual services	65,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	$ 60,000.00	$ 45,000.00	$ 45,000.00	$ 25,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-5490	Other professional service	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00		$ 12,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-5510	Postage	1,500.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	$ 500.00	$ 500.00		$ 500.00	
Expendi	01-10-5520	Telephone	3,134.00	3,134.00	3,134.00	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,440.07	$ 3,440.07	$ 3,621.00	5% Increase Estimate
Expendi	01-10-5530	Publishing, notes, ads, etc.	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	$ 600.00	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	
Expendi	01-10-5540	Printing forms, copies	100.00	100.00	100.00	$ -			$ -	
Expendi	01-10-5610	Dues - memberships	1,260.00	1,260.00	1,260.00	$ 1,260.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 3,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-5620	Travel expense	0.00						$ 500.00	
Expendi	01-10-5630	Training	600.00	250.00	250.00	$ 2,703.00	$ 2,703.00		$ 3,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-5710	Utilities - electric & gas	8,500.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	$ 9,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,500.00	5% Increase Estimate
Expendi	01-10-5940	Rentals	3,120.00	2,600.00	5,100.00	$ 5,100.00	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	
Expendi	01-10-6510	Office expense	17,000.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	$ 14,000.00	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-6520	Operating supplies	2,000.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	$ 700.00	$ 700.00		$ 700.00	
Expendi	01-10-6540	Janitorial supplies	97.08	100.00	100.00	$ 200.00	$ 300.00	$ 300.00	$ 300.00	
Expendi	01-10-6720	Periodicals - subscriptions	100.00	100.00	100.00	$ -	$ 55.00	$ 55.00	$ 55.00	
Expendi	01-10-6840	System software	1,748.06	2,000.00	2,000.00	$ -	$ -		$ -	
Expendi	01-10-8200	Building acquisition, improvem	1,060.80	-	-	$ -	$ -		$ -	
Expendi	01-10-8300	Equipment acquisition	1,821.64	500.00	500.00	$ 609.98	$ 609.98		$ 2,000.00	
Expendi	01-10-8320	Software programs	2,217.00	2,500.00	1,500.00	$ 1,700.00	$ 19,500.00	$ 19,500.00	$ 19,500.00	
Expendi	01-10-9110	Community relations - economi	1,056.56	1,000.00	5,700.00	$ 6,000.00	$ 6,000.00		$ 10,000.00	Amendment by Council
Expendi	01-10-9130	Library - personal property re	0.00							
Expendi	01-10-9290	Miscellaneous expense	200.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	$ 1,000.00	
Transfe	01-10-9990	Interfund operating transfer	182,367.49	-	-	$ -	$ -		$ 164,445.05	Bond Savings, Account Balancing, ESB Costs
	01-10	Administration								
		Revenue	(1,859,068.09)	(2,026,593.97)	(2,162,573.73)	$ (2,098,073.73)	$ (2,120,599.16)		$ (2,168,137.90)	
		Expenditures	566,668.90	576,313.05	614,023.70	$ 618,602.68	$ 615,043.58		$ 627,524.33	
		Transfers	92,367.49	(90,000.00)	(90,000.00)	$ (90,000.00)	$ (90,000.00)		$ 74,445.05	
		Net	(1,200,031.70)	(1,540,280.92)	(1,638,550.03)	$ (1,569,471.05)	$ (1,595,555.58)		$ (1,466,168.52)	

This is the Public Budget Process for This Year.

Council Members were invited to meet individually to ensure their priorities were included and to amend any amount in the Budget by vote. Priorities identified throughout the year were included in the Budget.

2027 Budget Timeline

Event	Day	Month	Date	Time
Budget Workshop 1	**Monday**	**March**	**16**	**6:00 PM**
Notice to Newspaper	Friday	April	3	**Noon**
Budget Workshop 2	**Monday**	**April**	**6**	**6:00 PM**
Notice in Newspaper	Wednesday	April	8	
Public Review at City Hall		April	17-27	**Business Hours**
Budget Workshop 3	**Monday**	**April**	**20**	**6:00 PM**
Budget Hearing	**Monday**	**April**	**27**	**5:30 PM**
Final Consideration and Adoption	**Monday**	**April**	**27**	**6:00 PM**

Once the Budget is passed, the Council is updated every three months with a complete budget showing where every line is compared to the budgeted amount. They, again have the power to make changes.

The auditor they hire does a complete financial audit every year and presents the report to the Council for approval and action on any policy or practice that needs to be changed.

The Petition Campaign Will Hurt Our Businesses, Investment and Development

- We have worked very hard to restore certainty and stability to City Government.
- That certainty and stability is the only reason for the major successes we have had in bringing development and investment.
- The petition introduces 6-months or 30-months of uncertainty and instability.
- Even if it doesn't pass, I believe investment will grind to a halt until the vote. Do the petitioners want that responsibility?
- The largest private investments take a long time to develop. Developers and investors hate uncertainty. We just invited it.
- Turn on your TV if you want to see negative campaigning. Supporters of this change will have to go negative on East Dubuque to pass the referendum. Why? Because no one would vote for throwing out the system that's working…and the current system is run properly and professionally and is working for East Dubuque.
- Talking down the City and it's government turns off growth.
- Don't take my word for it. Watch for it.

My Thoughts:

I have heard it suggested that petition supporters say this mainly changes my title from “Manager” to “Administrator”.

This is FALSE.

When I came in three and a half years ago, I saw huge problems (a state police investigation, a million-dollar deficit getting bigger, no one who could close the monthly books, no audit). It was a big risk but I also saw a path to take on the challenge.

If this passes, I think people will say, “There goes East Dubuque again.” And they would be right. This will blow up the cooperation and tools that allowed us to meet the challenge.

I will not serve as an Administrator working for a Council that can change the rules twice a month. I will not be responsible for what that decision does to this City.

I am proud of what we accomplished properly and together.