

**THE QUARTER COMMERCIAL
URBAN RENEWAL PLAN**

for the

**THE QUARTER COMMERCIAL
URBAN RENEWAL AREA**

CITY OF WAUKEE, IOWA

December 2022

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**The Quarter Commercial Urban Renewal Plan
for the
The Quarter Commercial Urban Renewal Area**

City of Waukee, Iowa

A. INTRODUCTION

The Quarter Commercial Urban Renewal Plan (“Plan” or “Urban Renewal Plan”) for the Quarter Commercial Urban Renewal Area (“Area” or “Urban Renewal Area”) has been developed to help local officials promote commercial and industrial economic development in the City of Waukee, Iowa (the “City”). In order to achieve this objective, the City intends to undertake urban renewal activities pursuant to the powers granted to it under Chapter 403 of the *Code of Iowa*, as amended.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE URBAN RENEWAL AREA

The Urban Renewal Area is described in Exhibit “A” and illustrated in Exhibit “B.” The City reserves the right to modify the boundaries of the Area at some future date.

C. AREA DESIGNATION

With the adoption of this Plan, the City designates this Urban Renewal Area as an area appropriate for the promotion of economic development (commercial and industrial development).

D. BASE VALUE

If the Urban Renewal Area is legally established, a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Ordinance is adopted, and debt is certified prior to December 1, 2022, the taxable valuation as of January 1, 2021, will be considered the frozen “base valuation” of the taxable property within that area covered by the TIF ordinance. If a TIF Ordinance is not adopted until a later date, or debt is not first certified prior to December 1, 2022, the frozen “base value” will be the assessed value of the taxable property within that area covered by the TIF Ordinance as of January 1 of the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the City first certifies the amount of any debt on the Area. It may be that multiple TIF ordinances will be adopted on separate portions of the Area as development occurs. If so, the frozen base values may vary among the subareas.

E. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The City has a general plan for the physical development of the City as a whole, outlined in the Waukee Comprehensive Land Use Plan, adopted in 2019. The goals and objectives proposed in this Plan, and the urban renewal projects described herein, are in conformity with the land use policies and plans for the development of the City as a whole established in the Waukee Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The Urban Renewal Plan does not in any way replace the City’s current land use planning or zoning regulation process. The land being included in the Urban Renewal Area is currently zoned

as Community Commercial/Planned Development Overlay, but may be rezoned, if needed, in accordance with the City's standard zoning processes.

The need, if any, for improved traffic, public transportation, public utilities, recreational and community facilities, or other public improvements within the Urban Renewal Area is set forth in this Plan. As the Area continues to develop, the need for public infrastructure extensions and upgrades will be evaluated and planned for by the City.

F. PLAN OBJECTIVES

Renewal activities are designed to provide opportunities, incentives, and sites to promote economic development (commercial and industrial). More specific objectives for the development, redevelopment, and rehabilitation within the Urban Renewal Area are as follows:

1. To achieve a diversified, well-balanced economy providing a desirable standard of living, creating job opportunities, and strengthening the tax base.
2. To plan for and provide sufficient land for commercial and industrial development in a manner that is efficient from the standpoint of providing municipal services.
3. To provide for the installation of public works and facilities including, but not limited to, water, sanitary sewer, trail, amphitheater and other public and quality of life improvements, which contribute to the development of the area and to the sound development of the entire City.
4. To encourage commercial growth and expansion through governmental policies which make it economically feasible to do business.
5. To provide a more marketable and attractive investment climate through the use of various federal, state and local incentives.
6. To stimulate, through public action and commitment, private investment in new and expanded commercial and industrial development.
7. To improve the conditions and opportunities for economic development (commercial and industrial).
8. To help develop a sound economic base that will serve as the foundation for future growth and development.
9. To enhance the City by fostering an entrepreneurial climate, diversifying the local economy, encouraging opportunities for new businesses, and supporting retention of existing businesses.
10. To enhance the health, safety, living environment, general character, and general welfare of Waukee, Iowa.

11. To promote development utilizing any other objectives allowed by Chapter 403 of the *Code of Iowa*.

G. TYPES OF RENEWAL ACTIVITIES

To meet the objectives of this Urban Renewal Plan and to encourage the development of the Area, the City intends to utilize the powers conferred under Chapter 403 and Chapter 15A, *Code of Iowa* including, but not limited to, tax increment financing. Activities may include:

1. To undertake and carry out urban renewal projects through the execution of contracts and other instruments.
2. To arrange for or cause to be provided the construction or repair of public infrastructure including but not limited to streets, curb and gutter, street lighting, water, sanitary sewer, public utilities or other facilities and quality of life improvements in connection with urban renewal projects.
3. To make loans, forgivable loans, grants, tax rebate payments or other types of economic development grants or incentives to private persons, local development organizations, or businesses for economic development purposes on such terms as may be determined by the City Council.
4. To borrow money and to provide security therefor.
5. To acquire or dispose of property.
6. To provide for the construction of specific site improvements such as grading and site preparation activities, access roads and parking, fencing, utility connections, and related activities.
7. To make or have made surveys and plans necessary for the implementation of the Urban Renewal Plan or specific urban renewal projects.
8. To use any or all other powers granted by the Urban Renewal Act to develop and provide for improved economic conditions for the City.

Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation on the power of the City to exercise any lawful power granted to the City under Chapter 15, Chapter 15A, Chapter 403, Chapter 427B, or any other provision of the *Code of Iowa* in furtherance of the objectives of this Urban Renewal Plan.

H. ELIGIBLE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS

Although certain project activities may occur over a period of years, the eligible urban renewal projects under this Urban Renewal Plan include:

1. **Development Agreement with The Quarter at Waukee, L.L.C.:** The City previously approved a Second Amended and Restated Development Agreement with the Quarter at

Waukee, L.L.C. (“Developer”) as a project in the Waukee Consolidated Urban Renewal Area. Additional changes to the project have now been identified by Developer and the project has not been initiated. Given the scope and duration of the project now being contemplated, the City has decided to establish a separate urban renewal area to facilitate the project and to approve a Third Amended and Restated Development Agreement (“Agreement”) as an urban renewal project in this Area. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement, the City would provide Developer with Economic Development Grants to incentivize a total of an anticipated seventeen (17) commercial buildings and related site improvements, with a total investment of approximately \$94,000,000. The City expects to make Economic Development Grants to Developer in the form of rebates of varying percentages of incremental taxes generated by the separate buildings over a period of twelve (12), sixteen (16) or twenty (20) years, depending on the nature of the specific commercial building as described in the Agreement. The cumulative total of all such grants is not expected to exceed \$35,000,000 and will be subject to the terms and conditions of a detailed development agreement.

2. Planning, Engineering Fees (for Urban Renewal Plans), Attorney Fees, Administrative, and Other Related Costs to Support Urban Renewal Projects and Planning:

Project	Estimated Date	Estimated Cost to be Funded by TIF Funds
Fees and Costs	Undetermined	Not to Exceed \$1,000,000

I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1.	July 1, 2022 Constitutional Debt Limit	\$127,379,974
2.	Current Outstanding General Obligation Debt	\$101,657,587

3.	Proposed amount of indebtedness to be incurred: A specific amount of debt to be incurred for the Eligible Urban Renewal Projects has not yet been determined. This document is for planning purposes only. The estimated project costs in this Plan are estimates only and will be incurred and spent over a number of years. In no event will the City's constitutional debt limit be exceeded. The City Council will consider each project proposal on a case-by-case basis to determine if it is in the City's best interest to participate before approving an urban renewal project or expense. It is further expected that such indebtedness, including interest on the same, may be financed in whole or in part with tax increment revenues from the Urban Renewal Area. Subject to the foregoing, it is estimated that the cost of the Eligible Urban Renewal Projects to be reimbursed from incremental taxes from this Area as described above will be approximately as stated in the next column:	\$36,000,000 This does not include financing costs related to debt issuance, which may be incurred over the life of the Area.
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J. URBAN RENEWAL FINANCING

The City intends to utilize various financing tools, such as those described below to successfully undertake the proposed urban renewal actions. The City has the statutory authority to use a variety of tools to finance physical improvements within the Area. These include:

A. Tax Increment Financing.

Under Section 403.19 of the *Code of Iowa*, urban renewal areas may utilize the tax increment financing mechanism to finance the costs of public improvements, economic development incentives, or other urban renewal projects. Upon creation of a tax increment district within the Area, by ordinance, the assessment base is frozen and the amount of tax revenue available from taxes paid on the difference between the frozen base and the increased value, if any, is segregated into a separate fund for the use by the City to pay costs of the eligible urban renewal projects. The increased taxes generated by any new development, above the base value, are distributed to the taxing entities, if not requested by the City, and in any event upon the expiration of the tax increment district.

B. General Obligation Bonds.

Under Division III of Chapter 384 and Chapter 403 of the *Code of Iowa*, the City has the authority to issue and sell general obligation bonds for specified essential and general corporate purposes, including the acquisition and construction of certain public improvements within the Area or incentives for development consistent with this Plan. Such bonds are payable from the levy of unlimited ad valorem taxes on all the taxable property within the City. It may be, the City will elect to abate some or all of the debt service on these bonds with incremental taxes from this Area.

The City may also determine to use tax increment financing to provide incentives such as cash grants, loans, tax rebates, or other incentives to developers or private entities in connection with the urban renewal projects identified in this Plan. In addition, the City may determine to issue general obligation bonds, tax increment revenue bonds or such other obligations, or loan agreements for the purpose of making loans or grants of public funds to private businesses located in the Area for urban renewal projects. Alternatively, the City may determine to use available funds for making such loans or grants or other incentives related to urban renewal projects. In any event, the City may determine to use tax increment financing to reimburse the City for any obligations or advances.

Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation on the power of the City to exercise any lawful power granted to the City under Chapter 15, Chapter 15A, Chapter 403, Chapter 427B, or any other provision of the *Code of Iowa* in furtherance of the objectives of this Urban Renewal Plan.

K. PROPERTY ACQUISITION/DISPOSITION

The City will follow any applicable requirements for the acquisition and disposition of property within the Urban Renewal Area.

L. RELOCATION

The City does not expect there to be any relocation required of residents or businesses as part of the proposed urban renewal project; however, if any relocation is necessary, the City will follow all applicable relocation requirements.

M. PROPERTY WITHIN AN URBAN REVITALIZATION AREA

The Urban Renewal Area may (now or in the future) also be located within an established Urban Revitalization Area. Properties within the Urban Renewal Area shall not be eligible for tax abatement under an Urban Revitalization Plan without the City Council's specific approval. The City Council, at its sole discretion, shall determine which incentives are available through either: (a) this Plan for urban renewal incentives, if any urban renewal incentives are offered by the City, at the City Council's sole discretion; or (b) tax abatement incentives through the City's Urban Revitalization Plan(s); or (c) a combination of urban renewal incentives and tax abatement incentives.

N. STATE AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS

The City will comply with all State and local laws related to implementing this Urban Renewal Plan and its supporting documents.

O. SEVERABILITY

In the event one or more provisions contained in the Urban Renewal Plan shall be held for any reason to be invalid, illegal, unauthorized, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity,

illegality, un-authorization, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Urban Renewal Plan, and this Urban Renewal Plan shall be construed and implemented as if such provisions had never been contained herein.

P. URBAN RENEWAL PLAN AMENDMENTS

This Urban Renewal Plan may be amended from time to time for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, adding or deleting land, adding or amending urban renewal projects, or modifying goals or types of renewal activities. The City Council may amend this Plan in accordance with applicable State law.

Q. EFFECTIVE PERIOD

This Urban Renewal Plan will become effective upon its adoption by the City Council and shall remain in effect until terminated by the City Council.

With respect to the property included within the Urban Renewal Area, which is also included in a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) ordinance which designates that property as a tax increment area and is designated based on an economic development finding, the use of incremental property tax revenues or the “division of revenue,” as those words are used in Chapter 403 of the Code of Iowa, is limited to twenty (20) years beginning with the first calendar year following the calendar year in which the City first certifies to the County Auditor the amount of any loans, advances, indebtedness, or bonds which qualify for payment from the incremental property tax revenues attributable to that property within a TIF Ordinance of the Urban Renewal Area. It may be that multiple TIF ordinances will be adopted on separate portions of the Area as development occurs. The division of revenues shall continue on the Urban Renewal Area for the maximum period allowed by law.

At all times, the use of tax increment financing revenues (including the amount of loans, advances, indebtedness, or bonds which qualify for payment from the division of revenue provided in Section 403.19 of the *Code of Iowa*) by the City for activities carried out under the Urban Renewal Area shall be limited as deemed appropriate by the City Council and consistent with all applicable provisions of law.

EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF
THE QUARTER COMMERCIAL URBAN RENEWAL AREA

Lots 2-3 and 5-15, Outlot Y, and Outlot Z of KeeTown Loop Plat 1, an Official Plat, now including and forming a part of the City of Waukee, Dallas County, Iowa (Parcel #1604480002, 160448004 through 1604480016, 1604377001); and

Lots 1-3, KeeTown Loop Plat 2, and an Official Plat, now including and forming a part of the City of Waukee, Dallas County, Iowa (Parcel #1604481001 – 1604481003); and

Lots A, B, C and D of The Shops at Kettlestone North Plat 4, an Official Plat, City of Waukee, Dallas County, Iowa (Parcel #1604332002).

EXHIBIT B
MAP OF THE QUARTER COMMERCIAL URBAN RENEWAL AREA

