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Supreme Court of Iowa Rules in Favor of the City of Pleasant Hill and the Use of Tax Increment Financing

PLEASANT HILL, Iowa – April 22, 2016 – Today, the Supreme Court of Iowa affirmed the Iowa District Court ruling in favor of the City of Pleasant Hill in a case brought forward by the Concerned Citizens of Southeast Polk School District in a case regarding the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for urban renewal areas.

“This ruling is the end of a very long process, affirming the City of Pleasant Hill and the use of the TIF were legal and consistent with the comprehensive plan,” said Pleasant Hill Mayor Sara Kurovski. “This ruling affirms ‘we as a city’ are committed to urban renewal projects that benefit the existing businesses and citizens within our community. Allowing the use of TIF for urban renewal projects not only creates opportunities for economic development, but allows the City to retain and support the expansion of existing businesses.”

To reach the conclusion, the Supreme Court of Iowa and the Court of Appeals affirmed the district courts findings from 2014. This confirmed the City’s urban renewal plan and use of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) were legal and consistent with the comprehensive plan. Existing TIF revenue will continue to be used to repair, upgrade, and expand the City’s road and utility network to support a broad tax base and quality economic development. The City has been reducing the amount of TIF increment during the past few years, and releases the additional tax increment value from new projects to benefit the school districts and other taxing authorities.

“The Supreme Court’s ruling affirms the City’s use of TIF and the legality of the amendment to extend the Copper Creek urban renewal area, while ensuring the communities best interest,” said Pleasant Hill City Manager Don Sandor. “The City is pleased with the ruling, as it will create new economic development opportunities; revitalize areas within the City, while enhancing the quality of life for those within our community.”

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