

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ACTION PLANNING SESSION
OF THE ANKENY CITY COUNCIL**

Monday, April 20, 2026

Ankeny Kirkendall Library - City Council Chambers

Mayor Bobbi Bentz

Mayor Pro Tem Todd Shafer

Council Members: Matt Davis, Dustin Graber, Justin Hollinrake, Jeff Perry

Mayor Bobbi Bentz called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Council Members Matt Davis, Dustin Graber, Justin Hollinrake, and Jeff Perry were in attendance. Council Member Todd Shafer joined the meeting electronically. City Manager Mike Schrock was also present.

Local Option Sales Tax (L.O.S.T.)

City Manager Mike Schrock presented the following information regarding Local Option Sales Tax.

- Timeline: On December 18, 2025, the City Council approved ballot language and a resolution for a special election to be held on September 8, 2026.
- Ballot language: Revenues from the sales and services tax are to be allocated as follows: Fifty percent (50%) for property tax relief. Fifty percent (50%) for capital projects, including street improvements, park and trail improvements and recreational facilities, public infrastructure, public safety equipment, and public facilities; or debt retirement.
- Cities without L.O.S.T.: Ankeny is one of five cities in Iowa without L.O.S.T. Ankeny's population is 76,207. The populations of the other four cities that do not have local option sales tax range from 15 to 117 residents.
- Spending patterns: In 2025, 13,370,00 people shopped at nine major retailers along Interstate 35 and Delaware Avenue. 61% of those people don't live in Ankeny.
- It is estimated that Ankeny would receive more than \$12 million in L.O.S.T. revenue.
- Future property tax levy increases: The levy is projected to reach \$10.35 by FY 2035, which is an increase of 45 cents. If approved, L.O.S.T. would help offset that increase.
- Rate reduction vs. rate avoidance. Tax levy relief examples were shown with the city receiving L.O.S.T. revenue.

Schrock requested feedback on an approach to educate people about Local Option Sales Tax. Discussion ensued. Council generally supports the idea of .60 for direct property tax relief. The Communications Plan includes education, focusing on what the ballot question means, helping residents understand the impact, and building awareness prior to the September election. Communications tactics were also discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

No official action took place during this planning session.

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