

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE AMES CITY COUNCIL**

AMES, IOWA

FEBRUARY 6, 2007

The Ames City Council met in special session at 5:15 p.m. on February 6, 2007, in the Council Chambers in City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, pursuant to law with Mayor Campbell presiding and the following Council members present: Doll, Goodman, Larson, Mahayni, Popken, and Rice. *Ex Officio* Member Buske was also present.

GRANT APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: Chuck Cychosz, Support Services Manager, stated that the Police Department is seeking funding from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau to support additional overtime traffic enforcement.

Moved by Rice, seconded by Goodman, to authorize submission of the grant application to the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau.

Vote on Motion: 6-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

FY 2007/08 BUDGET PROPOSALS: Moved by Mahayni, seconded by Doll, to approve the proposed FY 2007/08 budget. (Vote will be taken on March 6, 2007.)

The City Council heard the report on the proposed budget for Library Operations presented by Director Art Weeks. Mr. Weeks advised that, on February 17 and 24, 2007, facilitated community meetings will be held to receive input to aid in strategic planning on the future of the Public Library.

Details were given, by Chief Loras Jaeger, of the budget for the Public Safety Program, which included Law Enforcement Activities and Animal Control. Regarding white-tail deer population, a new aerial count has been taken by the DNR. Mr. Jaeger will be providing that information to the City Council in the near future.

The meeting recessed at 6:10 p.m. and reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

John Dunn, Water and Pollution Control Director, gave highlights on the budget for the Utilities Program, which included Water Production and Wastewater Treatment.

The Council heard highlights of the Public Safety Program, which included Traffic Control, as presented by Public Works Director John Joiner. Budget highlights of the Utilities Program, which included Resource Recovery, Water Distribution Maintenance, Storm Sewer Maintenance, and Sanitary Sewer Maintenance, were given.

Reports were summarized for the Transportation Program, which included the Street System, Parking Operation, and Airport. Information was distributed to the City Council on a "cleaning machine" for Campustown sidewalks and parking lots. The initial costs, including purchasing the equipment, labor, maintenance, and depreciation, would equate to nearly \$90,000. Ongoing costs would be approximately \$25,000. Staff believes that this equipment would be a valuable addition to City operations; however, the Student Affairs

Commission has been working on the idea of using community service labor to pick up garbage and having members of the Greek system adopt certain areas. Mr. Joiner would like to see the results of their efforts before the "cleaning machine" is pursued. Staff also plans to see a demonstration of the equipment in the spring. The purchase of this machine is currently not programmed into the FY 2007/08 Budget. Due to the Clarion Technologies eliminating their Ames operations, Mr. Joiner advised that they will no longer be leasing the VisionAire building. Efforts are being made to find a new lessee for that building.

Lastly, Mr. Joiner reviewed the budget details for the Cemetery, Public Works Administration, Public Works Engineering, and Public Buildings.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Doll, seconded by Popken, to adjourn at 7:38 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMES CITY COUNCIL

AMES, IOWA

FEBRUARY 7, 2007

The Ames City Council met in special session at 5:15 p.m. on February 7, 2007, in the Council Chambers in City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, pursuant to law with Mayor Campbell presiding and the following Council members present: Doll, Goodman, Larson, Mahayni, Popken, and Rice. *Ex Officio* Member Buske arrived at 6:22 p.m.

FY 2007/08 BUDGET PROPOSALS: The Council heard and discussed highlights of the Community Enrichment Program, which included Recreational Opportunities, presented by Director Nancy Carroll. Of significance is the annual subsidy for the Aquatics Program, which has increased approximately 52% in 11 years. Carr Pool subsidy equates to approximately \$50,000. Summer attendance at the two pools (Municipal and Carr) has decreased by 60% in 11 years. The annual subsidy for Brookside Wading Pool is \$4,167. Ms. Carroll also highlighted the anticipated deficit of \$11,926 in FY 07/08 for Homewood Golf Course. In an attempt to address the national and local trend of decreasing participation in golf, a list of innovative recommendations to increase usage of the Course were defined by Ms. Carroll. Council Member Goodman asked if there would be a point when the City would decide not to offer this service. Ms. Carroll pointed out that there is a segment of population that is served only by Homewood. She elaborated that it is a short course with fewer trees and "hazards" than other courses in the area. According to Ms. Carroll, the same situation exists at the Ice Arena. It is being recommended by City staff that the City and Iowa State University's annual \$20,000 contributions go into the Operational Fund balance instead of the Capital Reserve Fund. This transfer would be a one-year commitment to allow staff the necessary time to determine how additional ice time can be sold. Fees will be increased by 5% for FY 2007/08. Other recommendations were reviewed by Ms. Carroll. Staff will continue to analyze these programs and look to the City Council for direction.

Ms. Carroll distributed a staff report detailing the City contributions made to the Hunziker Youth Sport Complex since 1994.

Fleet Services Director Paul Hinderaker described Fleet Maintenance Services and Fleet Acquisition and Disposal. The Department is responsible for 401 vehicles and pieces of equipment belonging to the City. They also provide services to Story County and Mary Greeley Medical Center.

The Fire Safety Activities portion of the Public Safety program was presented by Chief Clint Petersen. He stated that the Department is meeting the Council's goal of responding to calls in 85% of the community in under five minutes. Deputy Chief Paul Sandoval explained activities in the Suppression and Emergency programs. Fire fighters responded to a total of 2,932 incidents (medical, fires, service calls, and false alarms) in 2006 (503 more than in 2005). Chief Petersen gave the highlights for the Prevention & Safety Division and the Building Safety Division (Inspections). He advised that two additional staff positions are being requested: (1) Property Maintenance Inspector and (2) Building Construction Inspector. A part-time clerical position is also being requested. A six percent increase to Building Permits is being proposed. The fee for Building Permits has not increased in five years. Regarding property maintenance issues, Council Member Popken asked staff to provide a list of examples of the types of problems that are being reported. Activities of the Health and Sanitation Division were also reviewed. Sanitarian Kevin Anderson talked about the fee charged for restaurant inspections, which is set by the state. He said that there is legislation proposed to increase the fee. At the current rate, the City recaptures approximately one-third of its expenses.

The meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Council Member Mahayni left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

The operations budget for the Electric Utility was explained by Director Don Kom. Two new positions are being proposed: (1) Plant Operations Supervisor and (2) Energy Trader. Council Member Goodman expressed his concern to make sure that data support the hiring of the Energy Trader position.

COMMENTS: Moved by Goodman, seconded by Popken, to refer to staff, for a report back to the City Council, an e-mail sent by Jeri Neal requesting consideration of a "Complete Streets" policy for Ames.

Vote on Motion: 5-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Doll, seconded by Larson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Vote on Motion: 5-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE AMES CITY COUNCIL**

AMES, IOWA

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

The Ames City Council met in special session at 5:15 p.m. on February 8, 2007, in the Council Chambers in City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, pursuant to law with Mayor Campbell presiding and the following Council members present: Doll, Goodman, Larson, Mahayni, Popken, and Rice. *Ex Officio* Member Buske was also present.

FY 2007/08 BUDGET PROPOSALS: The Council heard reports on the proposed budgets for the Transportation Program, including the Transit System, from Director Sheri Kyras.

Merlin Pfannkuch, 1424 Kellogg Avenue, Ames, requested to speak, indicating that he might not be able to attend the meeting of February 13, when public input is to be received.

Mr. Pfannkuch stated his concern about the long-term sustainability of the Transit System and believes that the City should be doing more than maintaining the financial viability of the Transit System. He believes that CyRide is the best thing that can be done for the community to lessen the dependency on the automobile. Mr. Pfannkuch indicated his appreciation with the extension of the Brown Route. He suggested that the City increase CyRide's budget by \$20,000 to allow for creative promotions in an attempt to increase ridership. Director Kyras stated that there are some marketing dollars available (approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000); however, they did just learn that they did not receive a marketing grant in the amount of \$25,000. The Mayor pointed out that the decision to earmark additional funds for marketing resides with the Transit Board.

Budgets for General Government and Internal Services were presented, which included Human Resources, Risk Management, and Health Benefits.

Budgets for the City Council and Executive Management, City Clerk, Public Relations, Cable TV, and Legal Services were detailed.

The meeting recessed at 6:50 p.m. and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion continued on the budgets for Long-Range and Current Planning, and Leased and Affordable Housing.

It was explained by Ms. Baker Latimer that approved applicants under the Section 8 rental assistance program may "port out," which means that they receive a housing voucher from Ames, but use that voucher in another housing authority jurisdiction. Concerns were expressed by Council Members Doll and Larson that Ames' residents would not receive priority for the vouchers. Council Member Larson expressed his desire that staff review those eligibility requirements.

Ms. Baker Latimer also gave the budget highlights for the Community Development Block Grant. She advised that removal of slum and blighted houses is allowed under this program; 30% of the funds could be used for this purpose. It was also stated that it

would be possible to use these funds to assist low- to moderate-income persons to improve their properties to meet Property Maintenance Code requirements should the City adopt such a Code.

Finance Director Duane Pitcher explained that Economic Development duties are now shared by Finance, the Planning and Housing Department, and the City Manager's Office.

Reports were also given by Mr. Pitcher on Financial Services, Information and Communication Services, Purchasing Services, Utility Customer Service, Parking Violation Collection. In response to a previous request from Council Member Popken, Mr. Pitcher showed a chart indicating the percentage change between taxable value and assessed value of residential properties due to roll-back. This showed the impact of conversions of apartments to condos/co-ops. If conversions were not allowed, instead of paying \$475/\$100,000 valuation, residential property owners would pay \$421/\$100,000 valuation. Documentation on where Ames stands among other cities in Iowa on tax levies was also distributed.

Mr. Pitcher explained City Council Contingency and Special Allocations. Mr. Schinker stated that the agencies listed in the draft budget to be funded by City Council Special Allocations were previously approved by the Council.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Doll, seconded by Popken, to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Diane Voss, City Clerk

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor