

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMES CITY COUNCIL

AMES, IOWA

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

The Ames City Council met in special session at 7:00 p.m. on the 18th day of September, 2007, in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, pursuant to law with Mayor Ann Campbell presiding and the following Council members present: Mahayni, Doll, Larson, Popken, Goodman and Rice. *Ex officio* Member Luttrell was also present.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION REGARDING GARBAGE PICK-UP TIMES: Mayor Ann Campbell thanked everyone for joining her and the Council to discuss issues regarding the early pick-up times of garbage. She commented on the uniqueness of Ames because garbage hauling in Ames is not the City's responsibility like it is in the majority of municipalities. Introducing themselves were Vicky Corbin, Carl Arends, Terry Van Vorhees, and Mike Chitty.

Mr. Chitty reviewed the strategy of picking up garbage in commercial areas such as South Duff, Main Street, and Campustown earliest to avoid the congestion of morning traffic, then moving toward residential. He gave the example of Hickory Park, where they must collect before all other trucks delivering which requires them to be there by 5:00 a.m. It becomes a traffic issue if they are out servicing customers at the same time as delivery trucks. Mr. Chitty also stated that their liability increases when students or community members are populating the area.

John Pohlman, of the City's Resource Recovery Plant (RRP), added that between seven and eight years ago, garbage haulers asked the RRP to adjust its hours because they recognized problems. Now it opens at 6:00 a.m. instead of 7:00 a.m.

Dan Olke of 1410 Big Bluestem Court, Ames, added that the trucks are moving in residential areas in the early morning hours of 2:30 a.m.-6:00 a.m. Mr. Olke hopes there is a way to plan a route to pick up garbage in a complex such as his after the morning rush hour.

Vicky Corbin stated that a lodging place with many cars where people will be getting ready to leave for school and work is the type of place where they collect before the morning traffic rush. She also said that if they are collecting garbage from containers, the trucks must back in, which could cause more hazards if done later in the morning. Mr. Chitty commented that Ames is unique in that residential is so close to commercial in many areas. Mr. Chitty suggested certain things that can be done with their machines to cut down on the noise, and said it is important for drivers to be very sensitive and possibly re-route during certain circumstances.

Regarding Mr. Olke's comments, Council Member Goodman said that this case is unique because of the adjacent condominium complex, and believed the haulers were attempting to be as courteous as possible. He also suggested the owner of the condominium complex might consider changing garbage haulers, since not all haulers start at the same time. Council Member Doll thanked everyone for gathering to discuss the concerns with sensitivity and expressed his confidence that these issues will be resolved.

The meeting recessed at 7:34 p.m. and reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON DOWNTOWN CATALYST PROJECT: Tim Coble brought attention to the Downtown Ames Catalyst Report. He stated that they have not entertained any interest from a developer wanting to move forward with items discussed in the 2005 charrette, and wonders what else potential developers would like to see.

John Doyle expressed gratification because of the positive responses from people they spoke with, and suggested they may just not have found the right developer yet. He hopes the new brochure acts as a stimulus to see this through.

Allyson Walter stated that Dan Culhane, Ames Economic Development Commission, is assisting by creating a list of potential developers in which some more information could be sent. Council Member Larson suggested a short survey be sent to developers asking why they have not been interested in the past. City Manager Steve Schainker stated that developers want to know if the land is controlled. He said ultimately, they want to know if they can control the land before they would seriously consider the project.

Ms. Walter said the new materials will be sent to developers within the next month. Mr. Schainker addressed the Council regarding its commitment to this project. He said the Council would have to speak to citizens about the plan, and be behind this group if they go forward. Mr. Schainker also committed to working with the Main Street Cultural District as well as private developers on this project. Ms. Walter stated they are willing to meet with the Council again in January .

The meeting recessed at 8:17 p.m. and reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

UPDATE ON PROPOSED DECISION AND ORDER BEFORE THE IOWA UTILITIES BOARD: Electric Services Director Don Kom updated the Council regarding the Decision and Order before the Iowa Utilities Board denying franchises pertaining to the 161-kV transmission line.

Moved by Mahayni, seconded by Rice, to go into closed session.
Vote on Motion: 6-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

Open session reconvened at 8:57 p.m.

Moved by Goodman, seconded by Popken, to allow the City's legal counsel to move forward however they see fit by appealing or reopening the issue.
Vote on Motion: 6-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

COMMENTS: Moved by Larson, seconded by Popken, to refer to staff a letter from Stumbo & Associates.

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

Moved by Larson, seconded by Popken to refer to staff a letter from Larry Curtis of Pasley and Singer Law.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Doll, seconded by Larson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor

Erin Thompson, Recording Secretary