

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMES CITY COUNCIL

AMES, IOWA

MARCH 18, 2007

The Ames City Council met in special session at 7:00 p.m. on the 18th day of March, 2008, 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: Doll, Goodman, Mahayni, Popken, and Rice. Council Member Larson was absent.

JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION: Heuss, Barnes, Platts, Cloud, and Beck, representing the Planning & Zoning Commission, were present. Also present was Jeff Johnson, Planning & Zoning Commission Member beginning April 1, 2008.

Mayor Ann Campbell expressed the City Council's appreciation of the Planning and Zoning Commission's advisory work on Planning issues.

Vice-chair Keith Barnes explained the process that the Planning & Zoning Commission uses to determine Planning initiatives for recommendation to the City Council. Barnes said the Commission is focusing on five initiatives:

1. Update Land Use Policy Plan (LUPP)
2. Flexibility in LUPP and/or Zoning Code
3. Proactive Annexation
4. Improving Campustown
5. Providing Industrial Lands

Barnes spoke about the similarities between these initiatives and the goals and objectives of the City Council.

Planning and Housing Director Steve Osguthorpe explained the role of the Planning & Zoning Commission as a recommending body for policy-based issues and project recommendations to the City Council.

Council Member Doll agreed that the LUPP and issues relating to it make it an ongoing initiative. City Attorney Doug Marek clarified the requirements of State and City Code relating to the LUPP as a comprehensive plan.

Planning & Zoning Commission Member Cloud discussed situations in which citizens would like changes made to zoning, which poses questions on why certain areas are zoned the way they are. Mr. Osguthorpe referenced the process and history of the creation of the LUPP, and discussed the idea that flexibility can be realized without taking a whole different approach to the plan.

Barnes further detailed the second initiative of Flexibility in the LUPP and/or Zoning Code and explained that he would like to see the process refined. He explained that some issues get to the Commission too late to allow any flexibility. He clarified that he is not always advocating flexibility, but would like to see the issues better accommodated. Mr. Osguthorpe suggested that some of the concerns could be addressed at the zoning code level. There was discussion about the

importance

of asking questions in order to enhance education, therefore improving the recommendations given by the Planning & Zoning Commission to City Council.

Council Member Doll discussed the initiatives and asked Planning & Zoning Commission members if the City Council needed to give more direction or better direction. Members of the Commission agreed that it would be helpful to have specific direction, which would clarify which issues the City Council is most interested in.

There was discussion about the third initiative, Proactive Annexation. It was noted that there has been little, if any, involuntary annexation, but mostly annexation by 80/20. Over the last ten years, state government has made it more difficult to annex.

The fourth Planning initiative suggested by the Planning and Zoning Commission is Improving Campustown. Mayor Campbell commented that she will be selecting individuals to form a steering team to assist in this initiative. There was discussion about previous attempts to rejuvenate Campustown.

The fifth initiative on the Commission's report was Providing Industrial Lands.

Mayor Campbell directed attention to Mr. Osguthorpe to review Planning-related City Council priorities. Upcoming priorities include Adams Street Historic Landmark, Prepare Preservation Plan for City, and Tax Abatement for Single-Family Conversion.

Mayor Ann Campbell thanked the Planning & Zoning Commission for joining the City Council in this work session and expressed appreciation for the Commission's work.

COMMENTS: Moved by Popken, seconded by Rice, to refer to staff the letter from Piper Wall regarding the 13th Street River Valley Park dam on the South Skunk River.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Doll, seconded by Rice, to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor

Erin Thompson, Recording Secretary