ITEM # 26b&c DATE 4/28/09

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT:

VACATION OF PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENTS AND FINAL PLAT FOR

SOUTHERN HILLS WEST PLAT 2

BACKGROUND:

Scott Renaud, the applicant, represents the land owners of Southern Hills West Subdivision. Mr. Renaud is requesting final plat approval to re-plat four lots into three lots, in order to allow development in Lot 3, the lot adjacent to Highway 30 and accessed from North Loop Drive. Also proposed are minor adjustments of the east-west lot lines separating Lots 1 and 2 from Lot 3. All other lot lines are proposed to stay the same, including Outlot A, which is the City's clear zone easement for airport runway protection. The subdivision is located on Airport Road, generally just west of the airport and northeast of the Research Park.

As part of this subdivision approval request, the applicant requests vacation of public utility easements that have not been used. The easements include two parallel 5-foot public utility easements, totaling 10 feet in width. They are located generally in the interior portion of the lots, and would therefore limit normal development of the lot under standard setback provisions. The easements are fully described in the attached Resolution to Abandon Public Utility Easement.

Public notice has been provided and a hearing is required to be held before the City can vacate easements. Mr. Renaud has provided verification that there are no utilities in the easements. The Public Works Department and City Attorney's Office have reviewed the vacation request and associated legal descriptions, and support the vacation request. An alternative plat, showing the easements has been provided, if the Council should choose not to approve the easement vacation.

As part of this subdivision approval request, the property owners of Lots 1 and 2 have requested a waiver of the requirement for sidewalk to be constructed along the 750 feet of frontage of the lots being re-platted. The sidewalk waiver request is addressed in a separate Council Action Form. That request should be considered prior to taking action on the final plat application because the result of that decision will determine which plat approval alternatives are available to the Council. There is a note on the face of the plat which states that the frontage road/bike path easement also serves to meet the City's sidewalk requirement. This is the same note that was approved in 2004. If the waiver were not granted then the note would need to be removed or modified.

There is existing asphalt parking on Lots 1 and 2. There was some expansion of parking in Lot 2 that occurred some time between 1998 and 2003 that the City did not approve. Some of that parking is currently in the City's clear zone easement. It was determined in 1999 by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the City's airport administrator, that parking within the clear zone easement did not respect the terms of the easement. The easement was originally purchased by the City in 1957, and the intent was to only allow agricultural

uses, with no obstructions or "assemblies of persons." This meant it could allow only farm equipment during normal farming activities, but not an assembly of persons, storage of equipment, or any intensive activities involving people or obstructions.

The applicant has agreed to ensure the removal of the unapproved parking within the clear zone easement before the plat is recorded. The applicant has also provided an attached scale drawing (certified and dated April 23, 2009) that demonstrates what parking will be removed, and that the remaining unapproved parking that is not in the clear zone can meet the City's perimeter landscaping and setback requirements. The scale drawing demonstrates to the City that the adjustments to the lot lines will not create an adjacent nonconforming development (with regard to building setbacks, parking setbacks and perimeter landscaping requirements), that cannot be reviewed and approved administratively at a later date under the development standards.

Points of Agreement

-Regarding the unapproved parking that <u>is not in the clear zone easement</u>, the applicant has agreed to fulfill any one of the following three options:

- 1) gain administrative approval for the remaining unapproved parking that is not in the clear zone easement before the plat is recorded
- 2) remove the unapproved parking back to the approved 1994 Pierson Enterprises site plan on file before the plat is recorded
- 3) provide financial security for completing the removal before the plat is recorded with a deadline for completion of three months from plat approval date.

-Regarding the unapproved parking that is in the clear zone easement, the applicant has agreed to any one of the following two options:

- 1) remove the parking before the plat is recorded, or
- 2) provide financial security for completing the removal before the plat is recorded with a deadline for completion of three months for plat approval date.

The Preliminary Plat of a Major Subdivision that is on file was approved August 12, 2003 by City Council. The proposed Minor Subdivision Final Plat being presented for approval makes up part of the Preliminary Plat and is not contrary to it. The only changes are interior lots lines, with a reduction of the number of lots, by one. There is no change in net acreage and no change to the Clear Zone Easement, also known as Outlot A. The approved Final Plat on file creating the lots being re-platted was approved by City Council in April 2004. No public improvements, except for sidewalks, were determined necessary for the re-platting. The plat therefore qualifies to be processed as a Minor Subdivision Final Plat. The plat results in the conversion of four commercially zoned (HOC) lots to three commercially zoned (HOC) lots, with the following acreage: 1.74 acres (Lot 2), 1.26 acres (Lot 1) and 5.97 acres (Lot 3). There are no changes proposed to the Zoning Map or Future Land Use Map. This request is only to change the interior lot lines to allow for in-fill development of the vacant lot (proposed Lot 3).

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Easement Vacation Decision
 - a. The City Council can approve the easement vacation
 - b. The City Council can deny the easement vacation.
 - c. The City Council can refer this back to staff for additional information
- 2. <u>Final Plat Decision</u>. The following final plat options a & b both include the following conditions:
 - Prior to plat recordation, compliance with options included in the Points of Agreement described herein; and
 - Prior to plat recordation, financial security shall be provided for the 750 feet of sidewalk in accordance with the Improvement Guarantee provisions of Section 23.409 (in the event the Council chooses to not waive the sidewalk requirements under a separate action); and
 - Sidewalk plans shall be submitted to and reviewed by Public Works for compliance with adopted regulations prior to installation.
 - a. The City Council can approve the Minor Subdivision Final Plat as depicted on attached Plat Option 1 drawing (which shows vacation of the utility easement).
 - b. The City Council can approve the Minor Subdivision Final Plat as depicted on attached Plat Option 2 (which retains the utility easement).
 - c. The City Council can deny the Minor Subdivision for Final Plat of the Council determines that the plat does not conform to adopted standards or imposes impacts on public improvements that have not been mitigated.
 - d. The City Council can refer the proposal back to staff for additional information, provided that the applicant is willing to grant additional time to review the proposal.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the City Manager that the Council adopt Alternative 1a and 2a, which is to approve the vacation of the public utility easements and approve the Minor Subdivision Final Plat for Southern Hills West Plat 2 subject to the following conditions:

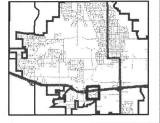
- a. Prior to plat recordation, compliance with the options included in the Points of Agreement described herein;
- b. Prior to plat recordation, financial security shall be provided for the 750 feet of sidewalk in accordance with the Improvement Guarantee provisions of Section 23.409, unless the Council chooses to waive the sidewalk requirements; and
- c. Sidewalk plans shall be submitted to and reviewed by Public Works for compliance with adopted regulations prior to installation, unless the Council chooses to waive the sidewalk requirements.

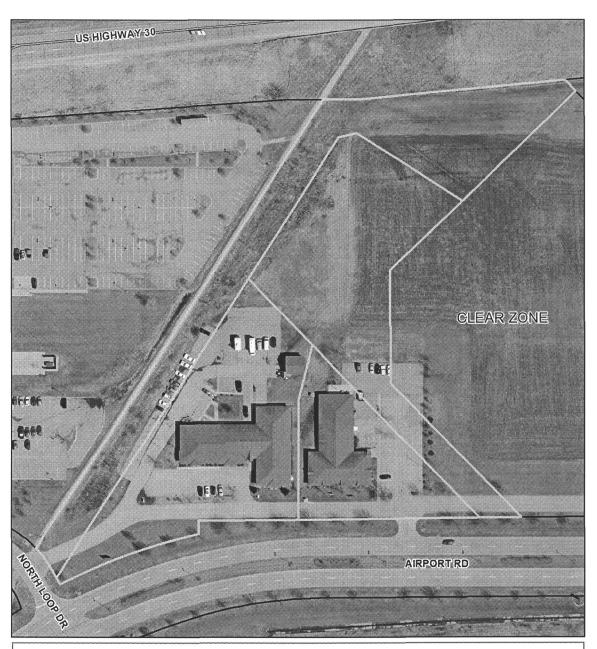


Location Map Southern Hills West



0 125 250 500 Feet

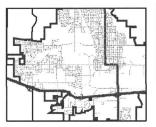




Current Property Lines / Aerial 2008 Southern Hills West







DO NOT WRITE IN THE SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE, RESERVED FOR RECORDER

Prepared by: Douglas R. Marek, City of Ames Legal Department, 515 Clark Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010 (Phone: 515-239-5146)

Return recorded document to: Ames City Clerk, P. O. Box 811, Ames, Iowa 50010

RESOLUTION NO.	RESOI	LUTION	NO.	
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RESOLUTION TO ABANDON PUBLIC UTILITY, ELECTRIC, AND BIKE PATH EASEMENTS IN LOTS 2 AND 3, REPLAT OF SOUTHERN HILLS WEST SUBDIVISON, AMES, STORY COUNTY, IOWA

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Ames, Iowa, that the following bike path easement in Lots 2 and 3, Replat of Southern Hills West Subdivision, Ames, Story County, Iowa is abandoned:

A strip of land 20.00 feet in width across Lots 2 and 3 in the Replat of Southern Hills West in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 83 North, Range 24 West of the 5th P.M., City of Ames, Story County, Iowa being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of said Lot 2; thence N00°14'39"W, 10.00 feet along the East line of said Lot 2 to the point of beginning; thence S89°28'07"W, 175.53 feet to the beginning of a curve; thence westerly and southwesterly, 212.25 feet along said curve having a radius of 913.51 feet, concave to the south, and a central angle of 13°18'45" and being subtended by a chord which bears S69°20'34"W, 211.77 feet; to a point on the Southwesterly line of said Lot 3 and the beginning of a curve; thence northwesterly 20.27 feet along the arc of said curve concave to the southwest having a radius of 180.00 feet and a central angle of 6°27'03" and being subtended by a chord which bears N36°31'12"W, 20.26 feet to the beginning of a curve; thence northeasterly and easterly 222.51 feet along the arc of said curve concave to the south having a radius of 933.51 feet and a central angle of 13°39'26" and being subtended by a chord which bears N69°18'59"E, 221.99 feet; thence N89°28'07"E, 177.98 feet to a point on the East line of said Lot 2; thence S00°14'39"E, 20.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.18 acres.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following public utility easement in Lot 3, Replat of Southern Hills West Subdivision, Ames, Story County, Iowa is abandoned:

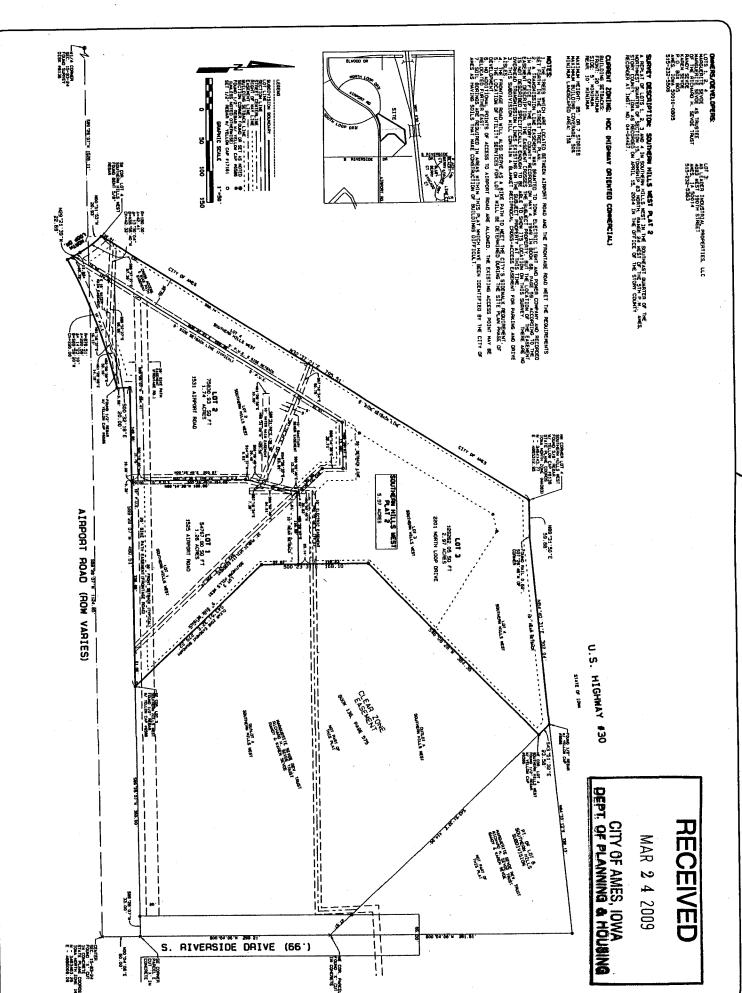
A strip of land 10.00 feet in width across Lot 3 in the Replat of Southern Hills West in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 83 North, Range 24 West of the 5th P.M., City of Ames, Story County, Iowa being situated 5.00 feet on each side of the following described centerline: Commencing at the Northwest Corner of Lot 2 in said Replat of Southern Hills West; thence N32°37'21"E, 5.97 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing N32°37'21"E, 275.45 feet; thence N77°42'40"E, 28.32 feet; thence S57°22'39"E, 186.12 feet to a point on the Easterly line of said Lot 3 and there terminating.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following electric easement in Lot 3, Replat of Southern Hills West Subdivision, Ames, Story County, Iowa is abandoned:

A portion of the Easterly 10.00 feet of Lot 3 in the Replat of Southern Hills West in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 83 North, Range 24 West of the 5th P.M., City of Ames, Story County, Iowa being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northeasterly Corner of said Lot 3; thence N43°51'32"W, 10.00 feet along the Northeasterly line of said Lot 3 to the point of beginning; thence running parallel with and 10.00 feet westerly of the Easterly line of said Lot 3 S46°08'28"W, 388.66 feet; thence S00°23'31"E, 86.36 feet to a point on the North line of an existing Electric Easement, and there terminating.

All other parts of said easements are retain	ned by the City of Ames and shall remain in full force and effect.
Done this day of,	2009.
Diane R. Voss, City Clerk	Ann H. Campbell, Mayor

Plat Option 1



STUMBO & ASSOCIATES LAND SURVEYING, INC.

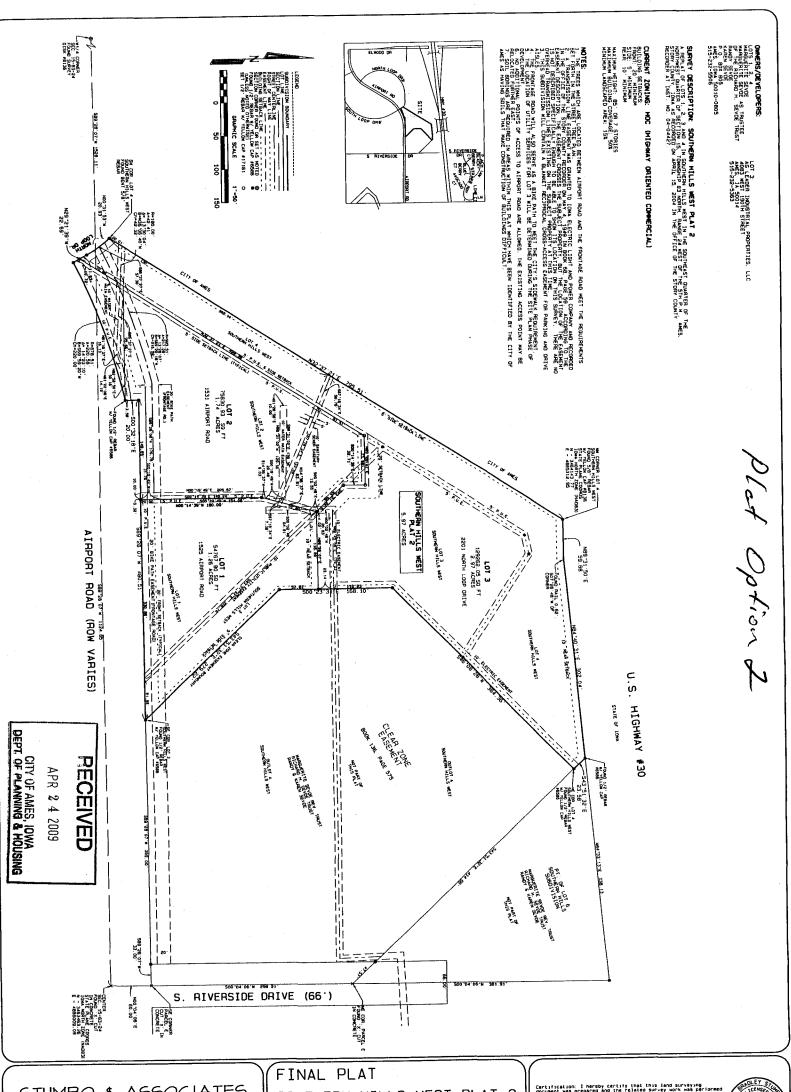
510 S. 17th STREET, SUITE 102 AMES, IOMA 50010 PHONE 515-233-3669 FAX 515-233-4403

FINAL PLAT SOUTHERN HILLS WEST PLAT 2

REPLAT OF SOUTHERN HILLS WEST IN SE1/4. NW1/4 SEC. 15-83-24, CITY OF AMES, STORY COUNTY, IOWA

SURVEY PREPARED FOR: MARGUERITE SEVDE DATE: 3/16/09 JOB #15221FP





STUMBO & ASSOCIATES LAND SURVEYING, INC.

510 S. 17th STREET, SUITE 102 AMES, IOWA 50010 PHONE 515-233-3689 FAX 515-233-4403

SOUTHERN HILLS WEST PLAT 2

REPLAT OF SOUTHERN HILLS WEST IN SE1/4. NW1/4 SEC. 15-83-24, CITY OF AMES, STORY COUNTY, IOWA SURVEY PREPARED FOR: MARGUERITE SEVDE

DATE: 3/16/09

PAGE:

JOB #15221FP2V2

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