

## STAFF REPORT

**RECREATION VEHICLE PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON CITY STREETS**

January 11, 2011

A request was made by an Ames citizen for a change of the parking ordinance for recreation vehicles (RVs) on City streets. The citizen complained of an RV being parked in front of his house several times during the year, feeling that it is a safety issue. At the City Council meeting of May 25, 2010, Council took action *“to refer to staff for preparation of a memo to City Council pertaining to restrictions on parking RVs on City streets.”*

The citizen referenced the following parking regulation from Section 18.9 of the City of Ames Municipal Code, which states,

*“Forty-Eight Hour Parking Prohibited: It is unlawful for any person to park any vehicle and to permit the same to remain standing continuously and in one place for a period of more than forty-eight hours upon a city street or municipally owned or leased parking lot or upon any other public thoroughfare in the City of Ames.”*

Under this provision, RV’s are currently allowed to be parked on City streets subject to the restriction cited above.

The following parking regulation was not referenced by the citizen but is also part of the Municipal Code. *Chapter 18 Section 18.16* states:

*“Parking of Trucks, Certain Vehicles and Boats in Residential Districts: (1) No person shall park a truck or trailer of over one (1) ton manufacturer’s rated capacity, duly licensed as such, or any vehicle of twenty (20) or more gross tons, or boats on any street in the city adjacent to property classified by this code as residential; provided that this section does not apply to trucks or trailers being used for the purpose of delivering or collecting goods, wares, merchandise or materials when such vehicles are parked for a period of time not longer than is necessary for the expeditious delivery or collection thereof, and in no event for a period of time to exceed two (2) hours, nor does it apply to trucks or trailers being used on construction sites. (2) A detached semi-tractor trailer of any kind shall not be parked on any street, anywhere in the City.”*

Through discussion with the Police Department, it was determined the forementioned Section 18.16 does not pertain to RVs and, therefore, is not used to regulate RV parking. **However, City Council could choose to prohibit RV parking by amending this code section to include recreational vehicles along with descriptive language to define these types of vehicles.**