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City Manager's Office

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TO: Mayor and Ames City Council Members

FROM: Steven L. Schainker, City Manager

DATE: July 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Extension of Sustainability Advisory Services Contract With ISU

On July 1, 2011, the City entered into a contract with Iowa State University to utilize the services of their full-time Director of Sustainability. According to the contract, the City will contribute to the University \$2,083.33 per month, or \$25,000 annually, towards the total cost of this position. This arrangement represents another example of how the City and University have partnered to benefit of both entities.

As you will recall, the initial assignment from the City Council for the Director of Sustainability was to work with a community task force to develop a plan to reduce electric consumption in non-city government operations throughout the community. To date, I have been very pleased with the value received from the work of Merry Rankin and her leadership role with the Sustainability Task Force. While the task force members have worked very hard to complete their assignment by the end of the fiscal year, the final report to the Council is now scheduled for mid-August. If the City Council hopes to obtain results from this initial task, then the existing contract should be extended. **Not knowing how long it will take for the Council to ultimately approve the final report or how much additional effort might be expected of the task force in regards to this assignment, I would suggest extending the existing contract through the end of 2011.**

It is important to note that once this assignment is complete, the City Council will have to decide what the next assignment, if any, should be given to the Director of Sustainability. The assignment could be as focused as the first and request, for example, the development of a plan to reduce water/sewer/gas consumption, or it could be much broader calling for a comprehensive City-wide Sustainability Plan. Once the Council decides on the future direction, the existing agreement will have to be amended to reflect this new scope of work.