

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF TO APPROVE DNR PERMITS FOR EXTENSION OF WATER MAIN AND SANITARY SEWER MAIN INTO SUBDIVISIONS

BACKGROUND:

Iowa Code section 455B.183 delegates construction permitting authority over certain sewer and water main extensions to qualified local Public Works Departments. Iowa Code section 567, Chapter 9 describes the manner and criteria under which the Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) oversees this authority. In the past, staff has approved these types of permits as authorized in Code. This authority allows Developers to submit construction permits through the City directly without processing the permit through the IDNR.

Staff has been contacted by the IDNR to update who within the City is authorized to sign these permits. City Council may authorize appropriate Public Works staff to apply for approval authority from the IDNR. **It is requested that Council designate authority to Eric Cowles, Civil Engineer II, and Sarah Okerlund, Civil Engineer I.** The Developer will still have the option to submit permits directly to the IDNR should the thresholds meet the requirements outlined in Code.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize Eric Cowles, Civil Engineer II and Sarah Okerlund, Civil Engineer I to assume permit approval authority from the IDNR and to subsequently approve construction permits as requested within the approval authority outlined in Iowa Code.
2. Direct staff to have Developers submit permit requests directly to the IDNR for approval.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By granting approval authority, the timeframe for approval of construction permits for the extension of sewer and water mains will be reduced.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing Eric Cowles, Civil Engineer II and Sarah Okerlund, Civil Engineer I to assume permit approval authority from the IDNR and to subsequently approve construction permits as requested within the approval authority outlined in Iowa Code.