

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:** NORTH DAKOTA WATER TOWER REMOVAL

**BACKGROUND:**

The North Dakota Avenue Water Tower was constructed in 1962. In 2003, the water distribution system was split into two pressure zones. This change was necessitated by growth in the west and southwest portions of Ames, and allows the utility to better regulate water pressure in those areas. Options for reusing the North Dakota tower were analyzed as part of the pressure zone study. Unfortunately, this tower was not at an elevation to be of beneficial use after the two pressure zones were created.

This tower has not been used for water storage and has stood empty for the past 10 years. In March 2014, City Council approved demolition of the tower as part of the 2014/15 Capital Improvements Plan. Staff has prepared plans and specifications for removal of the tower. The 2014/15 Water Plant CIP includes \$100,000 for this work.

In an effort to notify interested residents living near this facility, residents within a quarter mile radius received letters describing the City's intent to remove the tower. Throughout the project, updates will be provided on the City's website and on social media. Hang tags will be distributed to the adjacent property owners prior to work commencing.

Once the decommissioning is complete, the City will continue to provide maintenance and upkeep on the property.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Issue preliminary approval of plans and specifications for decommissioning the North Dakota Water Tower and issue a notice to bidders setting January 14, 2015 as the bid due date and January 27, 2015 as the date of public hearing.
2. Do not issue preliminary approval of plans and specifications and a notice to bidders at this time.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

This water tower has been empty for 10 years and no longer has a beneficial use for the community. The project has been delayed several years. However, it is important to conduct the decommissioning before the tower becomes an aesthetic issue or safety hazard. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.