



**To:** Mayor and Ames City Council

**From:** Steven L. Schainker, City Manager

**Date:** March 20, 2015

**Subject:** Changing Start Time for City Council Meetings

Previously, the City Council asked that the topic of changing the starting times for Council meetings be placed on a future agenda. Because this topic is not included in the *Municipal Code*, the only action needed to change the starting times would be a motion passed by a majority of the Council specifying the preferred time.

- At least two options have been offered as possible starting times for Council meetings – 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. Some of you have asked about the staff's opinion regarding this possible change. A recent discussion with the Executive Leadership Team revealed unanimous support for an earlier start time for the Council meetings. Most indicated they currently can't accomplish much at home during the two-hour break between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. This support is predicated on the assumption that if you begin the meetings two hours earlier, then the meetings will end two hours earlier! They believe it is difficult for the Council to make decisions regarding complex issues after a three-hour meeting.