

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
AMES CITY COUNCIL AND THE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

AMES, IOWA

OCTOBER 21, 2015

The Ames City Council met at 7:00 p.m. on the 21st day of October, 2015, in the Campanile Room of the Memorial Union, Iowa State University, pursuant to law with the following Council Members present: Gloria Betcher, Tim Gartin, and Matthew Goodman. Mayor Ann Campbell, *ex officio* Council Member Sam Schulte, City Manager Steve Schainker, City Attorney Judy Parks, Transit Director Sheri Kyras, and Management Analyst Brian Phillips were also present.

TRANSPORTATION: Following introductions led by *ex officio* City Council Member Sam Schulte, the floor was opened to questions regarding CyRide operations. Vice-Speaker Michael Snook asked for the City Council to explain where they foresaw CyRide contributions from each funder heading in the future. Mayor Campbell explained that the night prior had been a joint meeting with the CyRide Board to discuss that topic. The burden on CyRide is increasing as it tries to keep pace with enrollment. Council Member Goodman explained his view that every community has a responsibility for a basic network of transportation service. All funders should share equally in that burden. If users would like additional services beyond that level, there must be a discussion about how to split up those costs.

Council Member Peter Orazem arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Senator Robert Dunn indicated his desire to extend service on the Red Route farther west and eliminate the Purple Route. Transit Director Sheri Kyras explained the purpose of the Purple Route was to alleviate crowding on the Red Route and to serve the neighborhoods adjacent that area. Speaker Ben Crawford asked why, when students pay the majority of the CyRide fees, they do not control a majority of the seats on the CyRide Board. Mayor Campbell explained that when CyRide was established, it was a delicate balance among the City, students, and the University.

Senator Abbie Lang asked the City Council to explain the rationale for parking meter hours and why alternate-side parking rules were in effect year round in the area south of campus. City Manager Steve Schainker explained that meters are intended to recover the cost to operate the parking system and have been put into place at the request of business districts to create turnover and eliminate the possibility of people storing their cars in parking areas. President Dan Breitbarth asked why there was no on-street parking on Welch Avenue from three to six a.m. He suggested that it might incentivize drunk driving among those who drive to the bars and would otherwise leave the car in place. Mr. Schainker stated that the intent of the regulation is to allow for street cleaning and snow removal. Council Member Betcher stated that under the current regulations, no groups of users are entirely happy. She explained that Ames is transitioning to a more urban community, so parking may not remain the same. Mr. Schainker mentioned that the City is working to put together a Complete Streets team and will need assistance from the student community to build the program.

Senator Dunn indicated that he was appalled by the winter road conditions in Ames. Mr. Schainker explained that the reality is not to plow down to bare concrete, and that putting down excessive amounts of sand and salt was damaging to the environment. It is the responsibility of drivers to slow down as conditions deteriorate.

HOUSING: A Senator asked whether it was possible for the City to control rent charged by landlords. Council Member Orazem explained that the market is about a year behind the demand in responding with building new housing. President Breitbarth inquired as to the City's population absent the University's growth. Council Member Orazem explained that there has been growth across the board and mentioned that the City has added a disproportionately high number of private sector jobs recently. President Breitbarth asked how the City planned to accommodate that growth. Mayor Campbell explained that the City's present Land Use Policy Plan did not anticipate the significant increase in University growth. Council Member Orazem stated that the City was slow to annex land, which has affected housing prices. He suggested that, with the addition of the housing planned by the private sector, there could be downward pressure on rents. Council Member Goodman mentioned that in 1997, the philosophy changed to encourage intensification in Campustown, which is only now happening. Council Member Betcher added that the City is evaluating the development of the Lincoln Way corridor.

Senator Valentino asked if there were any changes planned in policy related to Greek housing. Mr. Schainker explained that in recent years there were changes to the parking standards, which allowed several Greek houses to build new, larger houses while still meeting the parking standards.

ADJOURNMENT: The joint meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor

Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

Brian P. Phillips, Scribe