



Mayor and Members of Ames City Council
City of Ames
515 Clark Avenue
Ames, IA 50010

Mayor and Councilmen and Councilwomen:

Following last night's discussion on the Downtown Parking Study and your ultimate vote to "establish a policy that defines short-term time limits as 3-hours and a long-term limit as 10-hours: convert on-street meters to 3-hour limit, maintain an Employee Hang-Tag system for Downtown at \$10/space/month in CBD Lot X only, thereby converting the remaining CBD lots (Y and Z) to 3-hour free parking and 24-hour Reserved," I feel it necessary to submit this letter asking you to consider a resolution to withdraw and reconsider your vote in the best interest of Downtown Ames businesses, visitors, residents, and employees.

As I stated at the meeting, Ames Main Street's preferred policy option was option 1C, which stated "establish a policy that defines short-term time limits as 3-hours and a long-term limit as 10-hours: convert on-street meters to 3-hour limit, abolish the Employee Hang-Tag program and establish CBD lots X, Y, and Z as 10-hour free parking on the southern half of the lots and 3-hour free parking on the northern half." This was a recommendation that had been vetted by many stakeholders and interested parties, but it was clear last night that option did not have the necessary support to move forward, which I understand and respect.

It is important to note that one key option was not even noted or offered as a potential solution: the status quo of 4-hours for short-term parking and a hangtag system at a cost of \$10/tag that offers long-term parking on the south side of Y and Z, as well as in Lot X. This option is working very well, all users are used to it and understand it, and it provides additional revenue to the city via hangtags and enforcement of the parking restrictions.

Therefore, I formally ask, on behalf of Ames Main Street, that the Council move forward with a resolution to withdraw/reconsider their vote and instead consider retaining the status quo, which as previously noted is working well with few complaints and issues. If the new policy, as voted on last night, is to go into place it will perplex all people interested/having a stake in the issue because the current system is working well. Downtown Parking has been such a volatile issue over the last few years, and moving forward in the direction Council requested last night will only add to that volatility and be a disservice to a system and policy that is currently working well.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to maintain the status quo for designated short and long-term parking in Downtown Ames. I will look forward to additional conversations regarding this very important policy issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drew Kamp', enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.

Drew Kamp
Executive Director
Ames Main Street